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AN EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF  
A NEW STORM TRACKING METHODOLOGY

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AN EVALUATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF A  
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ABSTRACT

This report contains the results of an exploratory statistical analysis to evaluate the performance of the Systematic Error Identification System (SEIS) and the Vortex Tracking Program (VTP), when tracking weather systems.

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1. Introduction

Weather forecasts made by the Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center (FNOC) are based on a numerical weather prediction model called the Naval Operational Global Atmospheric Prediction System (NOGAPS). Until 1983 the only available measures of model performance were of a global nature (aggregated over all the weather systems monitored), such as means, variances and root mean square errors. The operational field forecasters, on the other hand, prefer error statistics relevant at the synoptic level, i.e., measures pertaining to forecasts of individual storms and troughs. Such measures would enable these forecasters to provide better subjective forecasts at the regional level. In 1982, the Naval Environmental Prediction Research Facility (NEPRF) began the development of the Systematic Error Identification System (SEIS); the primary data reduction methodology within SEIS is the Vortex Tracking Program (VTP). In the VTP, an atmospheric low/high pressure system is mathematically represented as a generalized six parameter elliptic function. The six parameters correspond with the primary features of a storm, viz., the amplitude  $A$ ,  $R$  the semi-major of the elliptic representation of the storm,  $\epsilon$  the eccentricity or the ratio of the semi-major to the semi-minor,  $\alpha$  the orientation of the ellipse and  $X_o$ ,  $Y_o$  the coordinates of the center of the storm. The units of measurement are millibars (mb) for  $A$ , and degrees with respect to the North for  $\alpha$  while  $R$ ,  $X_o$ ,  $Y_o$  are measured in terms of a 63x63 FNOC hemispheric grid units. For each valid storm, the VTP uses an iterated non-linear least squares scheme to estimate  $A$ ,  $R$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $X_o$ ,  $Y_o$  within the sea level pressure field for the analysis at time  $t$  as well as for the associated 12, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hour forecasts produced by NOGAPS. The iteration scheme requires a set of initial guess values for the parameters to produce the estimates for the analysis field at time  $t$ . These estimates are in turn used as guess values to produce the 12 hour forecasts; the 12 hour parameter

forecasts are used to generate the 24 hour forecasts and so on. The estimated parameter values for the analysis field at time  $t$  are also used as the first guesses for the analysis field at  $t + 12$  hours. The estimates for the analysis field are usually referred to as verification values. Corresponding to each set of forecasted parameter values there will be a verification set obtained using the current (for the forecasted time) sea level pressure data. The difference between a forecasted value and its verification value is called the forecast error. SEIS, thus, provides the capability to track individual weather systems (by tracking the movement of the elliptic representation) and also a means to measure and analyze the tracking errors.

The modified NOGAPS model has been running on a real time basis since mid 1983. During the life cycle of each valid storm, twice each day (at noon and at midnight GMT), the elliptic parameter estimates are produced for the analysis field and the associated 12, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hour forecast fields. References [1], [2] and [3] discuss the VTP and SEIS models in more detail.

The objective of this project is the exploratory statistical analysis of the forecast errors to assess the performance of the SEIS/VTP model. Data on 80 storms, covering the North Pacific Ocean Basin, observed during the period January-May 1984 has been used in this study. The results of the analysis are described in the following sections. Section 2 contains overall measures of performance of SEIS/VTP, primarily summary statistics of forecast errors pooled over all the 80 storms. Error statistics pertaining to the tracking of individual storms are presented in Section 3. Conclusions and topics for further research are discussed in Section 4.

## 2. Analysis of Forecast Errors

A forecast error is defined as the difference between a forecasted parameter value and its verification value; an absolute forecast error is the absolute value of a forecast error. For each of the five forecasting periods (12, 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours) the forecast and the absolute forecast errors were subjected to various statistical analyses. Tables 1 and 2 contain the means ( $\bar{X}$ ) and standard deviations (S) for these errors.

TABLE 1  
SUMMARY STATISTICS OF FORECAST ERRORS

Forecast Period	Number of Samples	A		$\epsilon$		R		$\alpha$		$X_0$		$\bar{X}$
		$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	
12	487	-1.53	5.20	-0.05	1.49	0.21	1.27	4.75	49.83	-0.06	0.77	0.1
24	429	-2.67	6.69	-0.07	1.47	0.19	1.38	4.60	52.14	-0.08	1.01	0.1
36	371	-4.11	7.68	-0.13	1.86	0.27	1.73	4.83	56.10	-0.14	1.22	-0.
48	329	-5.14	8.50	-0.18	1.84	0.28	1.76	5.51	53.95	-0.11	1.34	-0.
60	288	-5.08	9.61	-0.30	2.03	0.21	1.85	5.10	50.85	-0.09	1.45	-0.

TABLE 2  
SUMMARY STATISTICS OF ABSOLUTE FORECAST ERRORS

Forecast Period	Number of Samples	A		$\epsilon$		R		$\alpha$		$X_0$		$\bar{X}$
		$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	$\bar{X}$	S	
12	487	3.87	3.79	0.85	1.23	0.85	0.98	28.79	40.93	0.50	0.59	0.5
24	429	5.56	4.57	0.92	1.15	1.00	0.98	32.65	40.89	0.69	0.73	0.7
36	371	6.84	5.39	1.07	1.52	1.19	1.28	37.26	42.18	0.87	0.86	1.0
48	329	7.65	6.32	1.07	1.51	1.19	1.32	36.65	39.92	0.97	0.93	1.2
60	288	8.38	6.92	1.20	1.67	1.20	1.42	35.20	36.99	1.04	1.01	1.3

The following general conclusions appear warranted. The NOGAPS forecasting methodology does forecast the parameters  $A$ ,  $R$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $X_0$ ,  $Y_0$  quite well. With regards to the forecasting of the orientation  $\alpha$ , although the mean errors are not excessive, the standard deviations are somewhat high. In many cases the forecast errors are negative indicating a negative bias, i.e., the forecasted values tend to be on the low side of the verification values. With a few exceptions, the means and standard deviations increase with an increase in the forecasting period; this is to be expected in view of the higher levels of uncertainty involved.

The autocorrelations for lags 1 to 5 between the forecast errors are presented in Table 3. Except for the lag-one autocorrelations of about .30 for the forecast errors of  $A$ ,  $X_O$ ,  $Y_O$  the rest of the autocorrelations are quite negligible. This implies that a large error in forecasting a parameter at a given time will not have a lasting effect on future forecast errors. Also, the correlation matrices (correlations between the errors in forecasting  $A$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $R$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $X_O$ ,  $Y_O$ ) in Table 4 show that these correlations are negligible with one exception -- the correlation between the errors in forecasting  $R$  and  $\epsilon$  is around .5. This may be interpreted to mean (with the one exception) that a large forecast error for one parameter will not have a detrimental effect on the estimates of the other parameters.

In an attempt to model the statistical behavior, gamma distribution were fit to the 12, 24, 36 and 48 hour absolute forecast errors. The histograms with the fitted gamma distribution superimposed are in Figures 1-18. Gamma distributions appear to serve as good statistical models of the absolute forecast errors for  $A$  and  $R$ . In the other cases, the lack of fit may be attributed to a higher peakedness in the data; a Weibull distribution may provide a better fit. Although no graphs are presented, gamma distributions did not provide a good fit to the forecast errors (appropriately translated/shifted to make them positive) also. Further work will be necessary to determine the most appropriate statistical distributions to model the probabilistic behavior of the forecast errors. Proper statistical modeling of the error data could be useful for exploring the development of uncertainty contours (confidence regions) for the movements of weather systems.

TABLE 3

## AUTOCORRELATIONS BETWEEN THE FORECAST ERRORS

Parameters	12 Hr Forecasts					24 Hr Forecasts					36 Hr Forecasts					48 Hr Forecasts					60 Hr Forecasts				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
A	.13	.04	-.05	-.02	.04	.33	.11	-.06	-.09	-.10	.35	.02	-.07	-.05	-.05	.31	-.04	-.03	-.07	.28	.02	.01	.01	-.02	
$\epsilon$	.04	.07	-.10	-.01	.14	-.12	-.06	.03	-.01	.04	0	-.01	-.06	0	.14	-.07	-.02	-.04	-.01	.16	-.03	.07	.11	.08	
R	.02	.10	.08	.05	0	.21	0	.03	.08	-.05	.29	.06	0	.03	.02	.31	.03	.03	-.03	-.03	0	-.03	.0	-.03	0
$\alpha$	-.05	-.01	-.05	-.01	.02	-.04	.03	0	-.07	.02	-.03	.04	-.02	-.03	-.02	-.06	.04	.01	.06	.04	.10	.06	.05	.02	-.01
$X_0$	.05	.05	0	-.04	-.06	.25	.05	-.07	-.01	-.03	.34	.06	.03	-.05	-.05	.41	.07	-.05	-.04	-.03	.29	.07	-.05	-.02	0
$Y_0$	.22	.11	.10	-.02	-.07	.28	.08	-.02	.04	.07	.29	.11	.08	0	.06	.36	.06	0	-.04	.07	.36	.06	.02	-.09	-.08

TABLE 4

## CORRELATION MATRICES FOR FORECAST ERRORS

Parameters	12 Hr Forecasts					24 Hr Forecasts					36 Hr Forecasts					48 Hr Forecasts					60 Hr Forecasts							
	A	$\epsilon$	R	$\alpha$	$X_0$	$Y_0$	A	$\epsilon$	R	$\alpha$	$X_0$	$Y_0$	A	$\epsilon$	R	$\alpha$	$X_0$	$Y_0$	A	$\epsilon$	R	$\alpha$	$X_0$					
A	1	.08	-.03	.09	.14	.02	1	.18	.07	.10	.03	1	.10	0	-.10	.04	.10	1	.23	.03	.04	-.04	.15	.1	.19	.01		
$\epsilon$	.08	1	.48	.11	.06	-.08	.18	1	.55	.02	.15	0	.10	1	.48	.02	.17	-.05	.23	1	.54	.04	.12	.05	.19	1	.57	
R	-.03	.48	1	.09	-.19	.01	.07	.55	1	-.04	-.13	.05	0	.48	1	-.04	-.11	.07	.03	.54	1	0	-.09	.12	.01	.57	1	-.05
$\alpha$	.09	.11	.09	1	.04	0	.07	.02	-.04	1	.01	.10	.02	.05	1	-.04	-.08	.04	.04	0	1	-.02	-.10	.15	.05	-.05	1	.05
$X_0$	.14	.06	-.19	.04	1	-.11	.10	.15	-.13	.01	1	-.22	.04	.17	-.11	-.04	1	-.20	-.04	.12	-.09	-.02	1	-.22	-.04	.08	-.05	
$Y_0$	.02	.08	.01	.00	-.11	1	.03	0	.05	.01	-.22	1	.10	.05	.07	-.08	-.20	1	.15	.05	.12	-.10	.22	1	.12	-.08	-.06	.15

### 3. Statistics of Individual Weather Systems

To evaluate the performances of SEIS, in tracking individual weather systems, and the NOGAPS model in forecasting weather systems, data on 20 storms with at least 10 records per storm (i.e., 10 sets of forecasted and verification values per storm) were examined. The means ( $\bar{X}$ ) and standard deviations ( $S$ ) of the forecast errors for these 20 storms are in Table 5.

The trends in the forecast errors are similar to the global trends observed in the previous section; with the exception of the forecasting of  $\alpha$ , the forecast errors are very small even at the individual storm level. The iterated non-linear least square procedure in VTP requires initial guess values for each of the parameters  $A$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $R$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $X_0$ ,  $Y_0$ ; the initial guess for  $\alpha$  is always specified as zero. We conjecture that this may be the cause of the somewhat erratic forecasts of  $\alpha$ . A better initial guess, closer to the true value, may result in a better forecast of  $\alpha$ . The SEIS/VTP appears to be exceptionally good in forecasting the center of a storm.

For each of the 20 storms the forecasted values of  $A$ ,  $X_0$  and  $Y_0$  were plotted against their respective verification values. In several cases, the scatter plots indicated an approximate linear relationship between the forecasted and verification values. A few of these scatter plots are shown in Figures 19-30. A linear regression analysis was, therefore, performed with the forecasted value as the independent variable and the verification value as the dependent variable. The least squares estimates of the intercept and slope of the fitted line and also the estimated coefficient of correlation (a measure of goodness of the fitted line) are in Table 6.

TABLE 5

## SUMMARY STATISTICS OF FORECAST ERRORS FOR INDIVIDUAL STORMS

Storm Number	Number of Records	A		ε		R		α		x <sub>o</sub>		x <sub>o</sub>	
		$\bar{x}$	s	$\bar{x}$	s	$\bar{x}$	s	$\bar{x}$	s	$\bar{x}$	s	$\bar{x}$	s
1	19	-9.9	5.2	0.6	1.3	0.8	1.5	4.4	99.0	5.3	0.8	0.1	0.3
2	18	-10.3	5.1	0.5	1.2	0.7	1.5	4.0	101.7	0.1	0.8	-0.1	0.3
3	34	-1.2	4.9	-0.6	1.5	-0.3	1.9	9.3	24.5	-5.2	0.7	-1.1	1.4
4	18	-6.4	5.1	-0.7	2.8	0.5	2.8	-3.3	20.3	1.1	1.4	-0.8	1.3
5	60	-5.6	10.1	0.1	0.9	0.6	1.4	-5.0	35.5	0.4	1.1	-0.5	1.8
6	19	-1.8	3.9	-0.2	1.0	1.4	1.7	6.9	31.3	-1.7	1.3	3.2	1.8
7	27	1.3	3.9	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.9	34.9	32.5	0.1	0.8	-0.9	1.4
8	41	-8.0	9.3	-1.3	3.3	0.7	2.3	3.5	47.2	-0.7	1.3	0.7	1.4
9	25	-3.2	16.0	-2.6	4.0	-0.5	1.4	11.0	74.8	-1.1	1.6	0.5	0.8
0	26	4.8	7.2	-0.1	2.4	0.4	1.1	-13.4	86.2	0.8	1.6	-0.4	0.5
1	23	-6.5	12.8	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.6	9.3	55.5	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.5
2	13	0.4	5.5	1.5	2.3	0.2	0.7	-10.7	29.2	0.1	0.9	0.0	0.5
3	63	-2.4	8.3	-0.1	1.7	-0.3	1.1	-6.9	54.4	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.6
4	10	-11.6	9.6	-0.1	0.8	-0.8	1.1	22.1	66.6	1.0	1.0	-0.2	0.5
5	20	-0.7	6.8	0.9	1.4	0.9	2.1	-7.3	36.7	1.2	2.0	-0.9	2.0
6	27	-2.0	6.7	-1.1	1.2	-0.9	2.0	7.5	33.0	-0.1	1.3	0.1	1.2
7	13	-6.6	4.2	-0.3	0.7	-0.7	0.8	-17.6	17.2	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.5
8	95	-3.4	6.7	-0.2	1.1	0.2	1.5	12.9	52.0	0.2	1.1	0.9	2.2
9	72	-5.1	9.4	0.3	1.4	-0.1	1.1	-11.0	54.8	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.9
0	51	-3.8	6.5	-0.5	2.7	-1.3	2.9	-20.1	36.8	-0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7

TABLE 6  
ESTIMATED REGRESSION PARAMETERS

Storm No.	A			X <sub>o</sub>			Y <sub>o</sub>		
	Intercept	Slope	Correlation	Intercept	Slope	Correlation	Intercept	Slope	Correlation
1	212.9	0.79	0.91	12.1	0.45	0.55	28.8	0.25	0.51
2	630.2	0.37	0.90	15.5	0.25	0.64	38.9	-0.05	0.45
3	984.9	0.003	0.00	2.7	0.84	0.92	22.9	0.29	0.30
4	495.8	0.50	0.37	20.9	0.09	0.16	23.9	0.09	0.10
5	732.7	0.26	0.33	11.3	0.35	0.70	13.1	0.62	0.82
6	962.7	0.04	0.05	11.3	0.45	0.14	-7.3	1.12	0.71
7	589.3	0.41	0.75	2.0	0.88	0.75	15.5	0.61	0.91
8	357.8	0.64	0.64	7.5	0.68	0.87	12.4	0.57	0.80
9	1066.7	-0.08	0.09	8.5	0.63	0.85	8.7	0.69	0.90
10	714.8	0.28	0.28	-0.7	0.99	0.82	15.1	0.46	0.40
11	626.6	0.37	0.29	25.9	-0.20	-0.29	4.6	0.88	0.80
12	143.1	0.86	0.47	6.1	0.73	0.80	6.8	0.75	0.80
13	745.0	0.25	0.47	2.0	0.87	0.86	-0.2	0.98	0.90
14	-133.0	1.14	0.33	-4.0	1.19	0.48	10.7	0.59	0.80
15	446.2	0.55	0.67	7.9	0.60	-0.03	8.8	0.75	-0.2
16	640.4	0.35	0.79	-1.6	1.07	0.80	-0.6	1.01	0.60
17	349.5	0.65	0.09	4.1	0.81	0.32	0.4	0.97	0.30
18	812.9	0.18	0.59	8.4	0.52	0.60	0.3	0.99	0.80
19	261.3	0.74	0.57	22.5	-0.02	0.95	30.1	-0.09	0.90
20	959.5	0.04	0.81	10.1	0.50	0.91	27.9	0.24	0.90

The regression analyses confirmed what was observed from the scatter plots, namely, a linear fit in many cases. If the functional relationship between the forecasted and verification values can be determined with good precision, corrective action can be taken to remove this source of systematic error in the forecasting scheme. However, the results in Table 6 do not lend themselves to the determination of the functional relationship. More data needs to be examined and different ways of stratifying the data such as by geographic regions and/or climatic seasons may prove to be profitable. Another possibility is to group the available records for a storm according to the forecast periods, i.e., all 12 hour forecasts as one group, all 24 hour forecasts as another group, etc. Of course, this scheme can only be applied to storms with large numbers of records. We tried this approach on 4 out of the 20 storms (storms 5, 13, 18 and 19, each with 60 or more records). The records for each storm were formed into five groups, one for each of the forecast periods and a separate regression analysis was performed for each group.

The estimated regression parameters in Table 7 reveal a much stronger linear relationship when the data is stratified according to the forecast period. Also, one can discern a definite pattern in the relationship between the forecasted and verification values of the storm's amplitude A. For the 12 hour forecasts, the relationship is linear with an intercept value of about 260 and slope .7; the intercept and slope values for the 48 hour forecasts are around 475 and .5 respectively. This is only an empirical observation and a more extensive study will be necessary to confirm this. Even though there is a strong correlation between the forecasted and verification values of  $X_o$  and  $Y_o$ , no pattern is evident in the estimates of the intercepts and slopes of the fitted lines. Another observation

that can be made from the correlations in Table 7 is that the 12 and 24 hour forecasts, and to a lesser extent the 36 hour forecasts correspond well with the verification values; the efficiency of the forecasting scheme appears to drop after the 36 hour forecasts.

TABLE 7

## ESTIMATED REGRESSION PARAMETERS FOR INDIVIDUAL FORECAST PERIOD

n	Forecast Period	A			X <sub>0</sub>			Y <sub>0</sub>		
		Intercept	Slope	Correlation	Intercept	Slope	Correlation	Intercept	Slope	Correlation
	12	275.3	0.72	0.77	3.4	0.81	0.80	10.6	0.68	0.83
	24	476.2	0.52	0.72	7.4	0.56	0.78	6.0	0.83	0.96
	36	748.6	0.24	0.37	10.1	0.40	0.82	12.6	0.64	0.85
	48	1062.5	-0.08	-0.09	12.7	0.26	0.66	19.0	0.45	0.60
	60	1235.6	-0.25	-0.24	13.4	0.23	0.72	22.5	0.34	0.61
	12	454.6	0.54	0.55	-2.0	1.11	0.96	-0.1	0.99	0.99
	24	572.5	0.43	0.52	3.3	0.81	0.94	-0.1	0.98	0.99
	36	740.7	0.26	0.39	6.4	0.63	0.78	0.1	0.97	0.99
	48	751.3	0.25	0.54	4.4	0.78	0.80	-1.4	1.01	0.99
	60	762.9	0.27	0.74	-1.0	0.99	0.78	-1.0	0.99	0.99
	12	256.9	0.74	0.77	2.2	0.90	0.92	0.1	1.00	0.96
	24	489.0	0.50	0.49	3.7	0.81	0.81	2.8	0.93	0.93
	36	454.4	0.54	0.60	6.4	0.67	0.60	8.1	0.78	0.81
	48	616.6	0.37	0.45	14.9	0.25	0.22	14.8	0.57	0.66
	60	437.2	0.56	0.61	14.3	0.27	0.28	16.8	0.51	0.60
	12	277.6	0.72	0.92	0.8	0.96	0.99	-0.7	1.02	0.99
	24	488.8	0.51	0.78	-0.8	1.05	0.99	-2.3	1.06	0.99
	36	646.1	0.35	0.54	-1.6	1.08	0.96	-1.9	1.06	0.94
	48	701.0	0.30	0.50	-4.3	1.20	0.94	-1.2	1.04	0.91
	60	819.9	0.18	0.38	-3.9	1.17	0.89	3.5	0.90	0.86

#### 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

This study has demonstrated that the NOGAPS model performs exceedingly well in forecasting five of the six parameters of the elliptic representation of a storm. The maximum mean absolute error in forecasting the amplitude  $A$  is 8.38 (Table 2) which is less than 1% of the verification values that range between 900 and 1,000; the maximum standard deviation of these errors is 6.92. Similar positive statements apply to the errors in forecasting  $\epsilon$ ,  $R$ ,  $X_o$ ,  $Y_o$  as can be seen from Tables 1 and 2 and the single high mode close to zero in the histograms (Figure's 1-18) of absolute errors.

The autocorrelations (Table 3) between the errors in successive forecasts of any of the six parameters indicate that these errors may, for all practical purposes, be treated as independent. Similarly, for each forecast period, the errors in forecasting the parameters  $A$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $R$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $X_o$ ,  $Y_o$  appear to be independent (Table 4). What this implies is that a large error in forecasting a parameter may not have a lasting effect on other forecasts nor will it have a carry over effect on forecasting the other parameters.

Even at the individual storm level, the mean forecast errors and their standard deviations are quite small; once again the exception is the parameter  $\alpha$ . Scatter plots of the forecasted values versus the verification values indicated a linear relationship between the two sets, in several cases. Regression analyses to fit straight lines to the data confirmed this observation (Table 6 and Figures 19-30). When the data was stratified according to the forecasts period, e.g., all 12 hour forecasts are treated as one group, and a separate regression analysis performed for each group the linear relationship was accentuated (Table 7).

The overall conclusion is that the incorporation of the SEIS and VTP methodology within the NOGAPS model has improved the storm tracking capability of NOGAPS and the elliptic representation of storms provides a good means of providing synoptic level error statistics to the field forecasters.

We propose the following topics for further study and research:

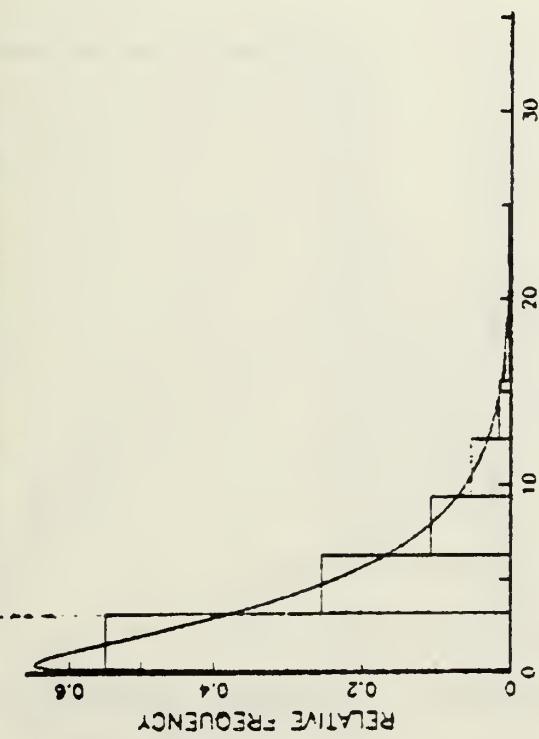
1. Determine the most appropriate probability distributions to describe the probabilistic behavior of the forecast errors. The indications are that the Weibull family may provide a good fit to the absolute error data.
2. Develop procedures to generate uncertainty contours/confidence regions around the forecasted elliptic representations of a storm based on the probability distributions of the forecast errors.
3. Examine more data to determine the functional relationship (if it exists) between the forecasted and verification values of the elliptic parameters. Different stratification schemes for the storm data such as by geographic regions and by climatic seasons could lead to the identification of sources of systematic errors and the means of remediation.

## REFERENCES

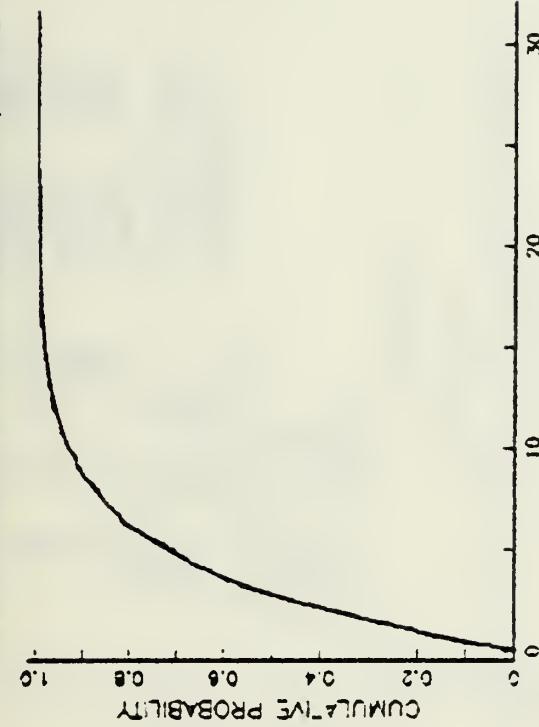
- [1] Tsui, T. L. and Brody, L. R., "Objective Storm Tracking System", Preprint: Proceedings of the 9th Conference on Weather Forecasting & Analysis, Seattle, WA, June 28-July 1, 1982
- [2] Harr, P. A., Brody, L. R. and Tsui, T. L., "Verification Statistics of the Naval Operational Global Atmospheric Prediction System Tailored For The Field Forecaster", Extended Abstracts: Sixth Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, Omaha, NE, June 6-9, 1983.
- [3] Harr, P. A., Tsui, T. L. and Brody, L. R., "Model Verification Statistics Tailored For The Field Forecaster", Preprints: 8th Conference on Probability and Statistics in Atmospheric Sciences, Hot Spring, Arkansas, 1983.

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=482

GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=482



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT

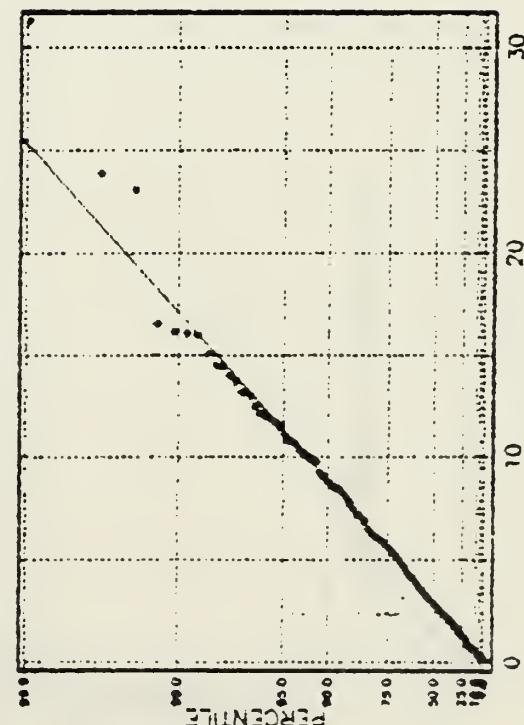


GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF PARAMETER ESTIMATES	
ESTIMATION	MOD E12[:1]
ALPHA	0.012974
BETA	0.012974
SAMPLE SIZE	482
MINIMUM	1.00
MAXIMUM	31.700
CHI-SQUARED	4.044
EST. METHOD	MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD
SCALING	0.1100
MEAN	3.9179
STD DEV	3.793
SKINNED:	3.1835
KURTOSIS:	11.208
PERCENTILES (APPROX.)	1.1110
0.	0.1
10.	0.4
25.	1.3
50.	2.6
75.	3.9
90.	4.7
95.	5.1
99.	11.282
CHI-SQUARE	1.7134
DEG FREED	4
SIGMA	0.87366
ALPHA	0.012974
BETA	0.012974
GOODNESS OF FIT	
CHI-SQUARE	
DEG FREED	
SIGMA	
ALPHA	
BETA	

FIG. 1. AD. AND CV SIGMA LEVELS AND SIGMA WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

PARAMETER	ESTIMATE	LOWER	UPPER
ALPHA	0.012974	0.012974	0.012974
BETA	0.012974	0.012974	0.012974



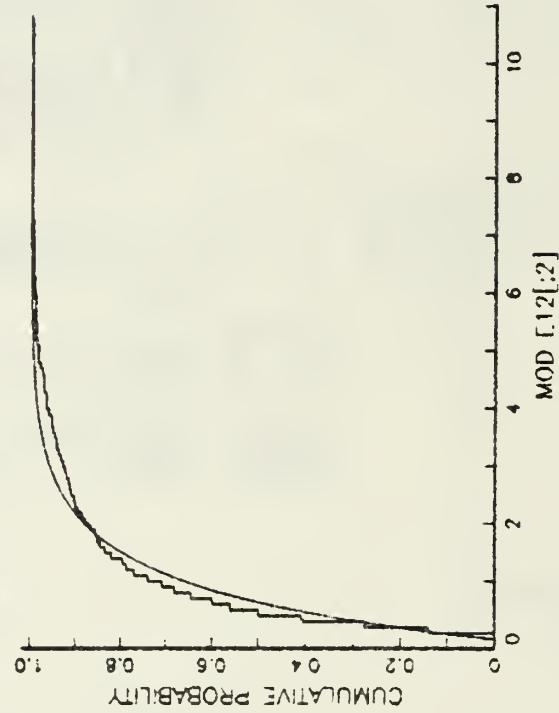
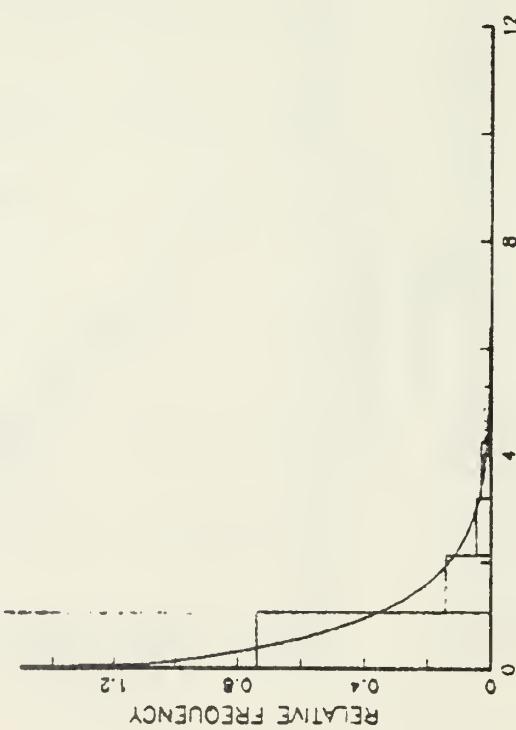
GAMMA CDF

Fig. 1

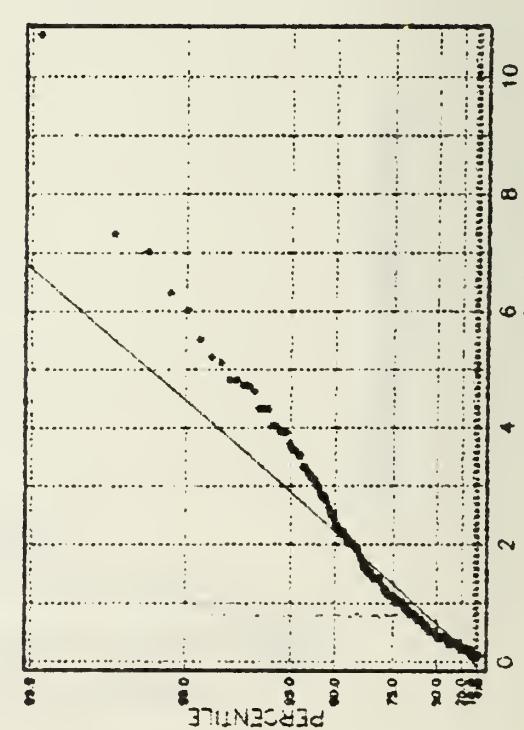
12-hour Absolute Forecast Errors for  $\Lambda$

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=443

GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=443



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

X : MOD E12[2]  
 SELECTION : ALL  
 LABEL : MOD E12[2]  
 SAMPLE SIZE: 443  
 MINIMUM : 100  
 MAXIMUM : 1000  
 CHARGING : NORM  
 EST. METHOD: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF  
 PARAMETER ESTIMATES  
 ALPHAS  
 ALPHAB : 0.003112  
 BETA : 0.0033816  
 BETA : 0.0033846

QUANTILES OF FIT  
 SAMPLE : FITTED  
 MIN : 0.93673 0.93673  
 10 : 1.2511 0.86563  
 20 : 1.9128 2.0552  
 30 : 2.6225 2.3936  
 MAX : 10.823 9.3398

PERCENTILES SAMPLE : FITTED  
 5 : 0.1 0.019844  
 10 : 0.1 0.020501  
 25 : 0.2 0.023358  
 50 : 0.4 0.03703  
 75 : 1.1 0.1079  
 90 : 2.3 0.293  
 95 : 3.4 0.4701

CHI-SQUARE : 2.03481  
 D.G. TESTED : 0.00000  
 SIGNIF : 0.920757  
 HULL.QUANT : 1.43481  
 SIGNIF : 2.40000  
 CHI-SQUARE : 2.03481  
 SIGNIF : 0.920757  
 APPROX. : 1.16241  
 SIGNIF : 0.920757  
 APPROX. : 1.16241  
 SIGNIF : 0.920757

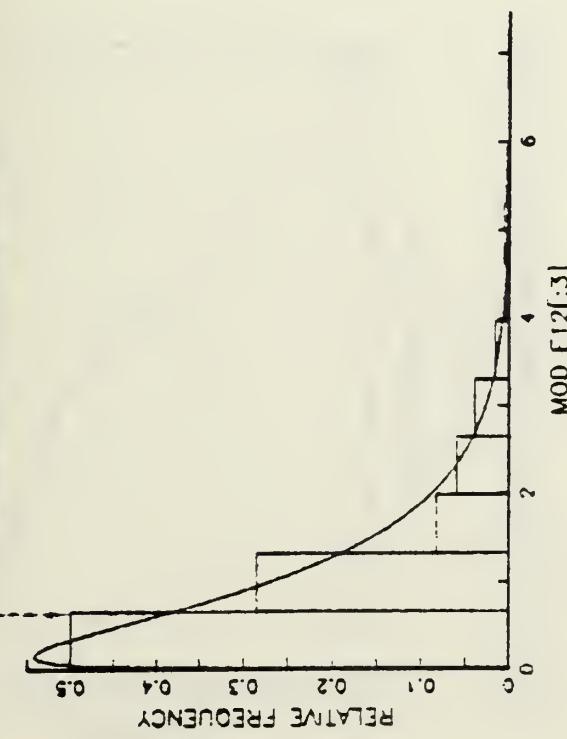
0.95 AD. AND CV SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT EXACT WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETER

PARAMETER ESTIMATE LOWER 0.95 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS  
 ALPHAB : 0.003112 0.0030760 0.0031464  
 BETA : 0.0033816 0.0033545 0.0033946

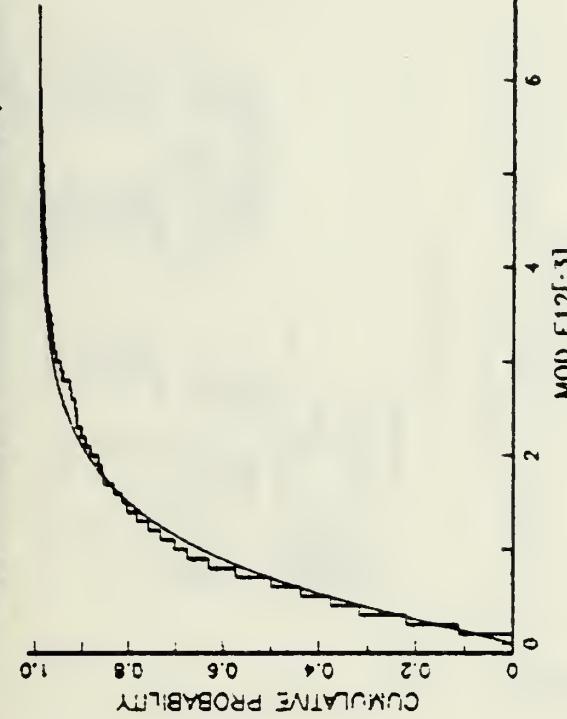
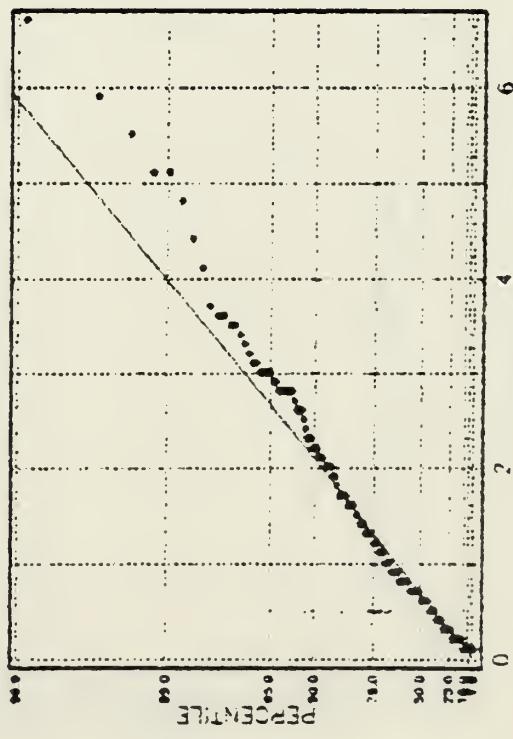
Fig. 2

### GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=436

### GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=436



### GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



### GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

SELECTION	
MOD	MOD E12[:3]
ALL	
LIMIT	MOD E12[:3]
SAMPLE SIZE	436
MINIMUM	1.100
MAXIMUM	6.700
CENSORED	None
EST. OF THRO.	MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD
SAMPLE	61110
MEAN	0.84541
SID. EST. :	0.84541
SID. CV :	0.00147
Std. Dev.	0.22925
Std. Err.	0.01613
Alpha	0.54329
Beta	0.01664
PERCENTILES SAMPLE	PERCENTILES
9:	0.1
10:	0.1
25:	0.3
50:	0.6
75:	1.2
80:	1.7
90:	2.4
95:	3.1
99:	4.6
CHI SQUARED	11.462
ORG. INFLU.:	4
SIGMA:	0.02000
MEAN SHIFT:	0.083076
SIGMA SHIFT:	0.0044621
CHI-SQ. V.:	0.94408
SIGMA:	4.05
ALPHA-BETA:	3.8813
SIGMA-BETA:	4.01

\*5. AD. AND CV SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT EXACT WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

0.95 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS		
PARAMETER	ESTIMATE	1.048 (PMP)
ALPHA	1.184	1.039
BETA	0.70048	0.67458

Fig. 3

12-hour Absolute Forecast Errors for R

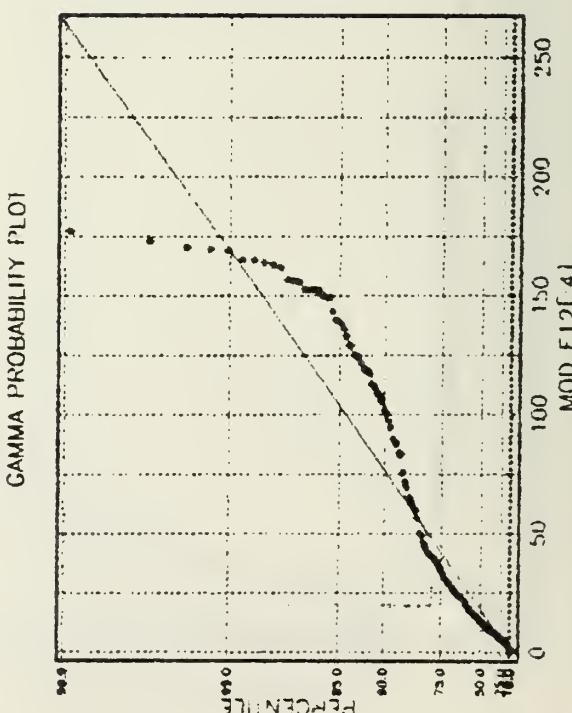
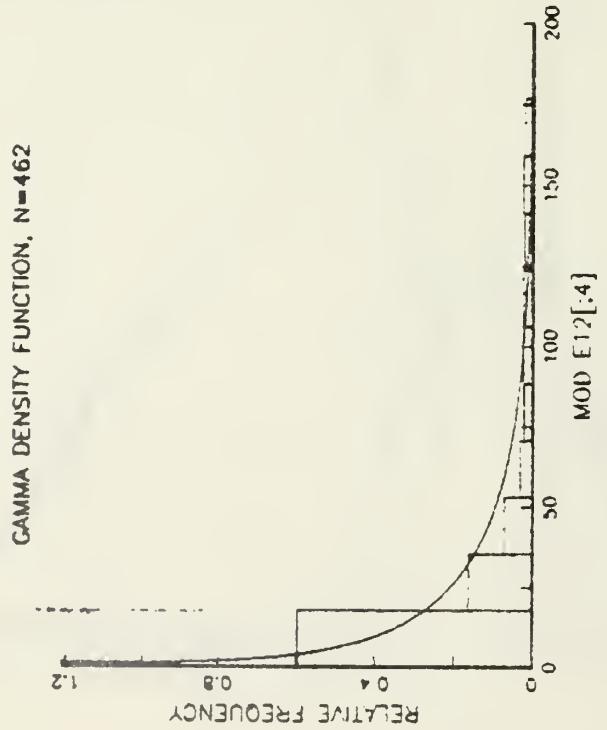
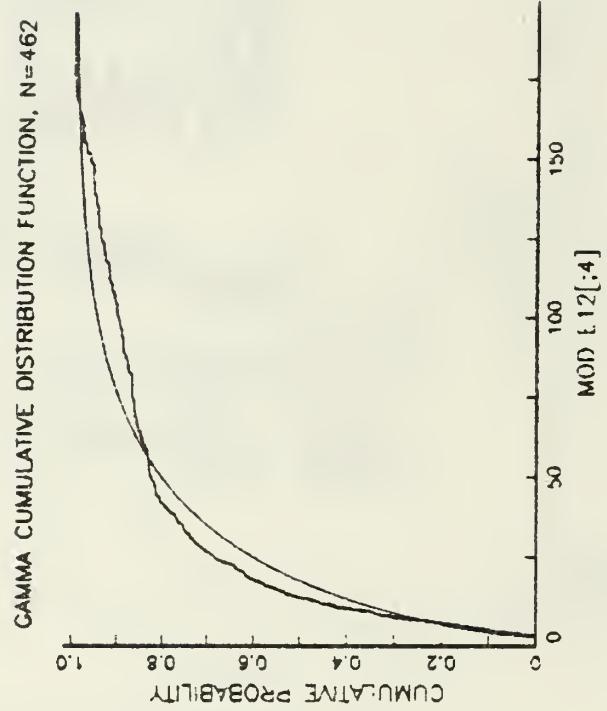


Fig. 4

GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=437

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=437

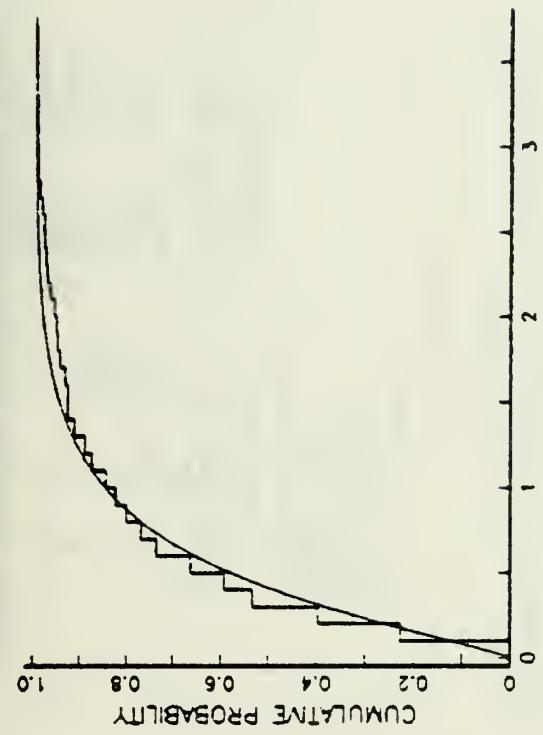
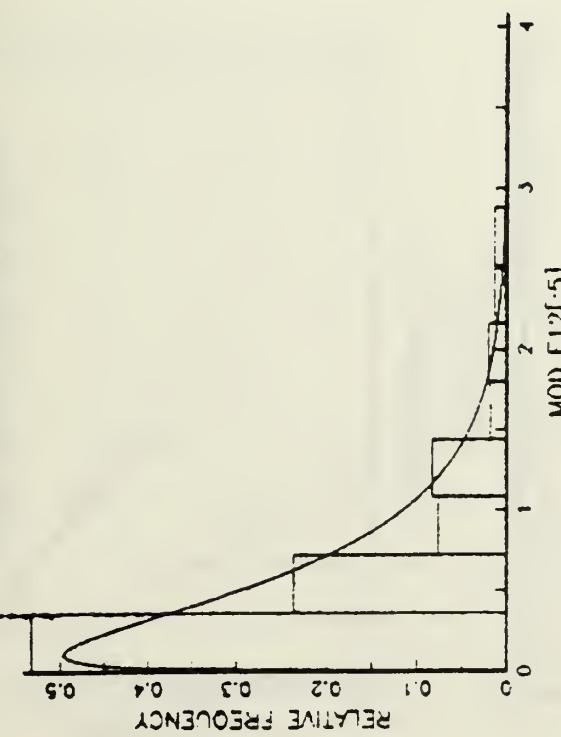


Fig. 5

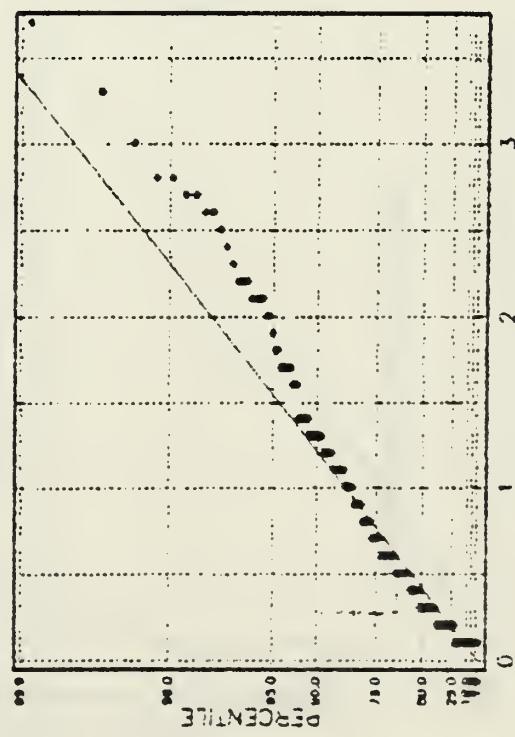


Fig. 5

12-hour Absolute Forecast Errors for  $X_O$

RESULTS OF 12-HOUR FORECASTS

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF FORECAST ESTIMATES

ALPHA 0.000000 0.0020424  
BETA 0.000000 0.001181

ALPHA 0.000000 0.0020424  
BETA 0.000000 0.001181

SAMPLE FITTED

MEAN 0.554 0.554  
STD DEV 0.2917 0.45804  
SKEWNESS 2.064 1.80173  
KURTOSIS 6.2563 7.86675

CHISQ TEST: 0.000000

EST. METHOD: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

PERCENTILES SAMPLE FITTED

PERCENTILE	SAMPLE	FITTED
5	0.1	0.05416
10	0.1	0.082616
25	0.2	0.15116
50	0.3	0.41546
75	0.7	0.76406
80	1.2	1.2114
90	1.9	1.5274

EXCESSNESS OF 1.17

CHISQ TEST: 3.19661  
DF: 10  
P-VALUE: 0.460000  
SKEWNESS: 5.07324  
KURTOSIS: 1.81011  
SKEWNESS: 3.31000  
KURTOSIS: 1.71870  
CHISQ TEST: 0.01  
SKEWNESS: 0.01  
KURTOSIS: 0.01

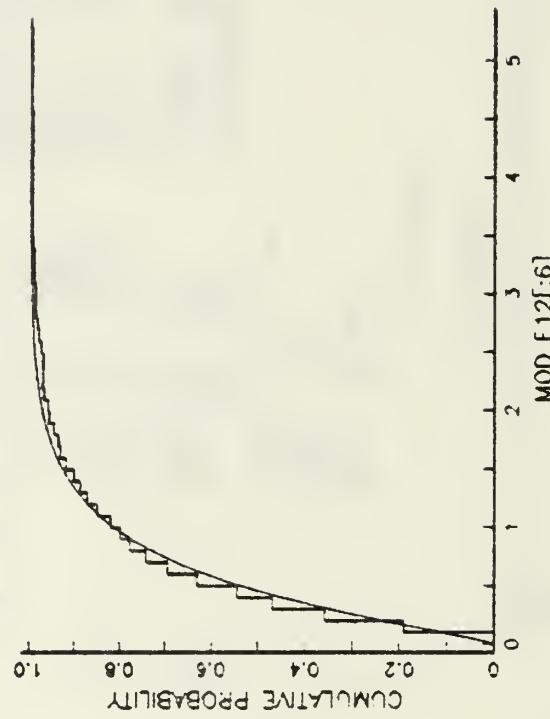
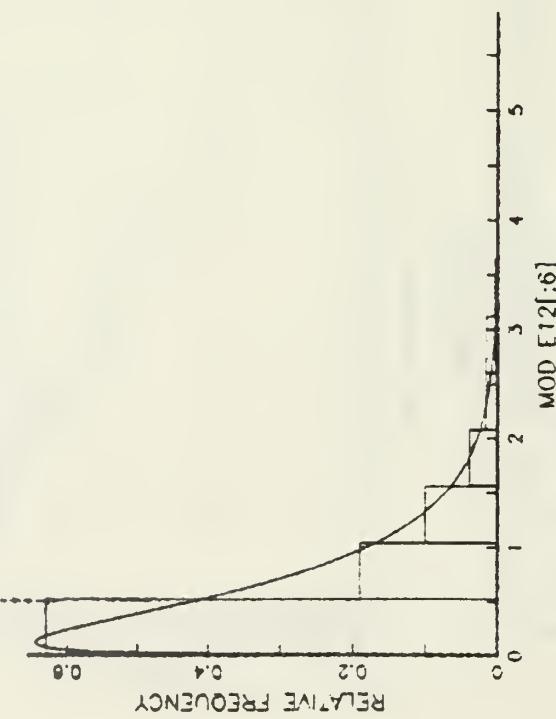
AREA UNDER CURVE: 0.500000

ALPHA AND CV SIGNIFICANT LEVELS NOT PLOTTED WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

PARAMETER ESTIMATE LOWER UPPER  
ALPHA 1.2326 1.062 1.3787  
BETA 0.46934 0.36276 0.51483

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=439

GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=439



GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

X : MOD E12[.6]  
 SELECTION : ALL  
 LABEL : MOD E12[.6]  
 SAMPLE SIZE : 439  
 MINIMUM : 100  
 MAXIMUM : 5300  
 COMPUTING : NONE  
 (ST. METHOD: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD)

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF  
 PARAMETER ESTIMATES  
 ALPHA : 0.00049311 0.0007351  
 BETA : 0.00027031 0.0013313

PERCENTILES	SAMPLE	FITTED
0	0.41394	0.41394
10	0.64277	0.63114
25	0.86559	0.79646
50	1.34415	1.04311
75	2.04644	1.46311
90	2.87053	2.04644
95	3.79562	2.87053

GOODNESS OF FIT

CHI-SQUARE : 2.63811  
 D.G. FIELD: 3.00000  
 STOKE: 0.05347  
 KOLMAGOROV: 1.25347  
 STIRL: 7.13164  
 CHAUVEL: 1.25347  
 SIGNIC: 0.01  
 ANDER DARL: 0.41200  
 SIGNIP: <.01

\*S, AD, AND CV SIGNIP LEVELS NOT EQUAL WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

PARAMETER ESTIMATE 0.95 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS  
 ALPHA : 0.49016 1.2300 1.0617 1.3661  
 BETA : 0.49016 0.49231 0.50723

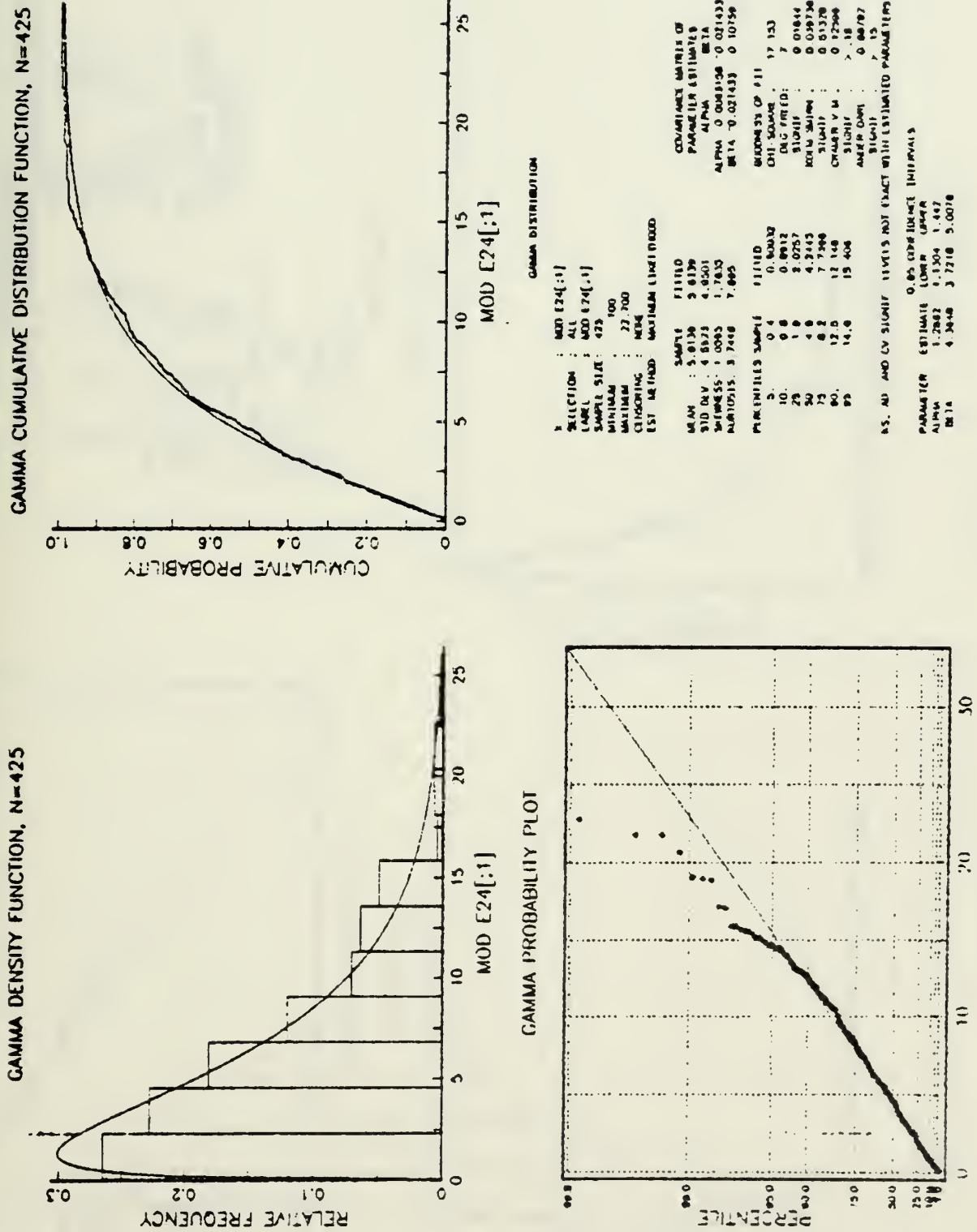
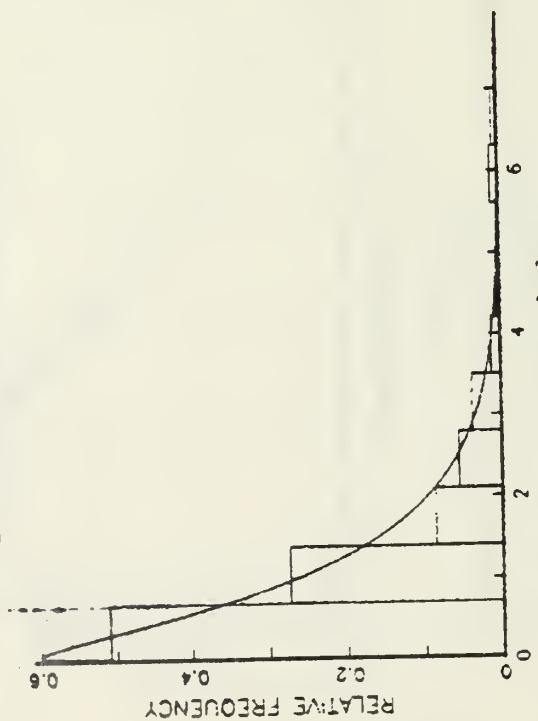
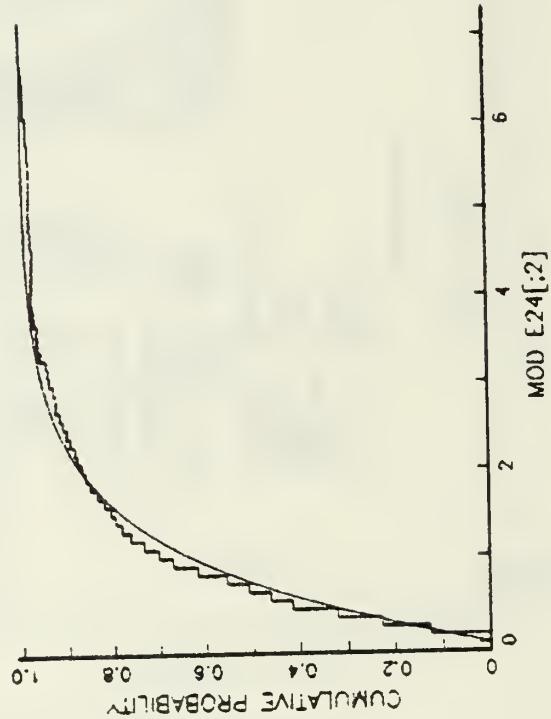


Fig. 7

### GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=396



### GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=396



### GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

```

X: MOD E24[2]
REJECTION: ALL
LABLE: MOD E24[2]
SAMPLE SIZE: 396
MINIMUM: 0.100
MAXIMUM: 7.100
CENSURING: NONE
EST. METHOD: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD
SAMPLE: FITTED
MEAN: 1.0018
STD. DEV.: 1.1561
SE (N=55): 2.3635
RATIO(S): 10.936
PERCENTILES SAMPLE: FITTED
5: 0.1 0.00227
10: 0.1 0.00274
20: 0.3 0.00753
50: 0.6 0.02211
75: 1.1 0.05010
90: 2.4 0.2065
95: 3.3 0.5321
GOODNESS OF FIT: 7.44
CHI SQUARE: 4
DEG. FREED.: 3
SIGNIF.: 0.1048
KOLM.-BENTJ.: 0.00081154
SIGNIF.: 0.7497
CHISQ. N.M.: 0.7497
SIGNIF.: 0.1
ANDERSON: 4.9919
SIGNIF.: 0.01

```

NS, AD, AND CHI SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT EXACT WITH ESTIMATED P-VALUES (E799)

PERCENTILE: Estimate Lower Upper  
ALPHA: 1.0001 0.93471 1.2  
BETA: 0.93746 0.79735 1.0687

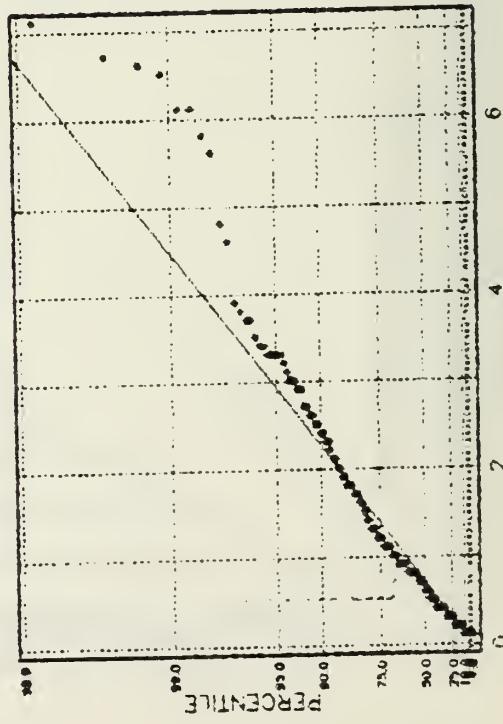
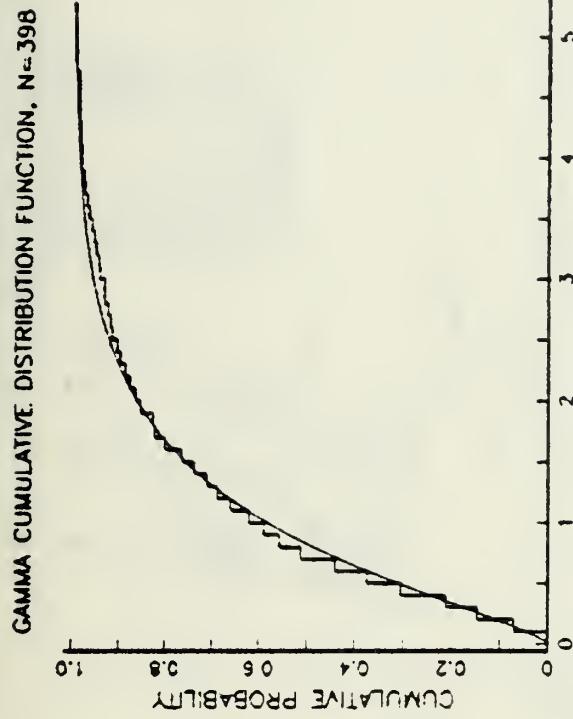
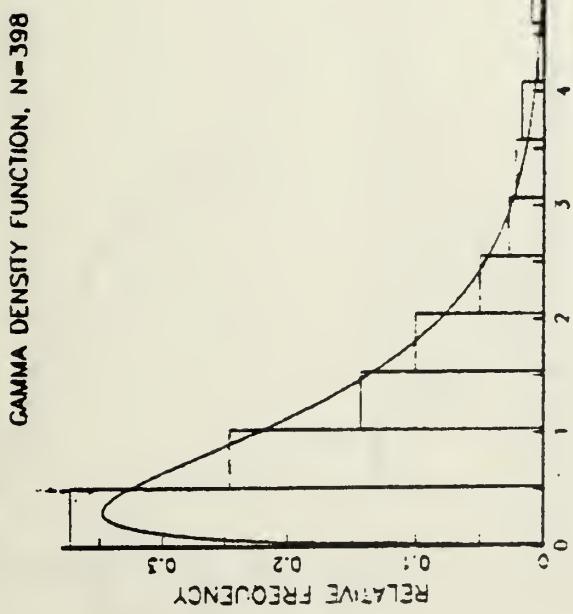
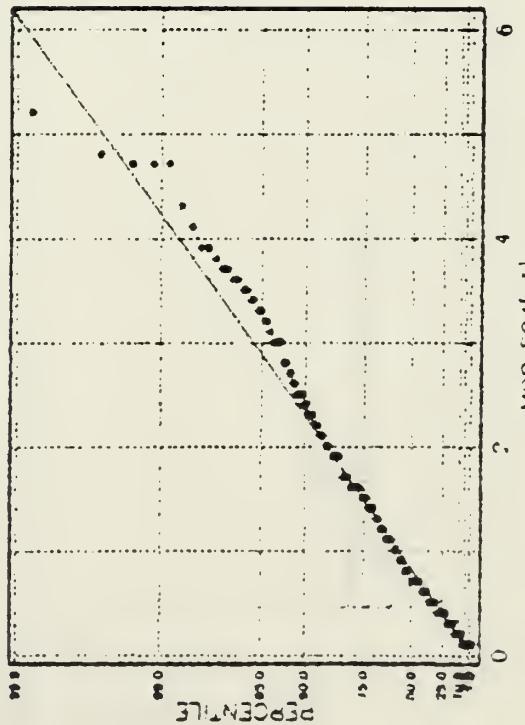


Fig. 8



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



- 25 -

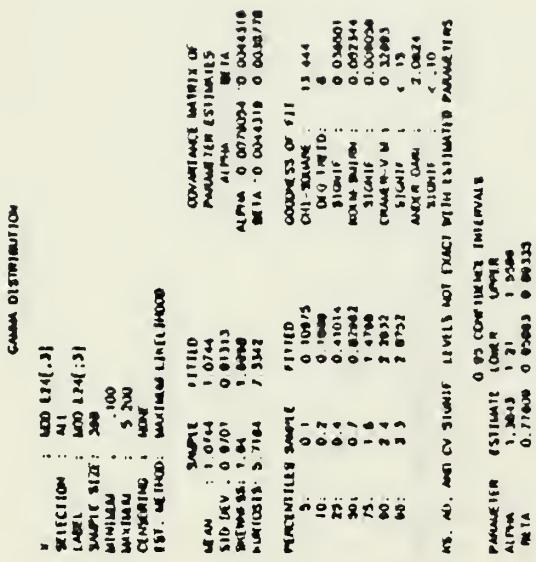
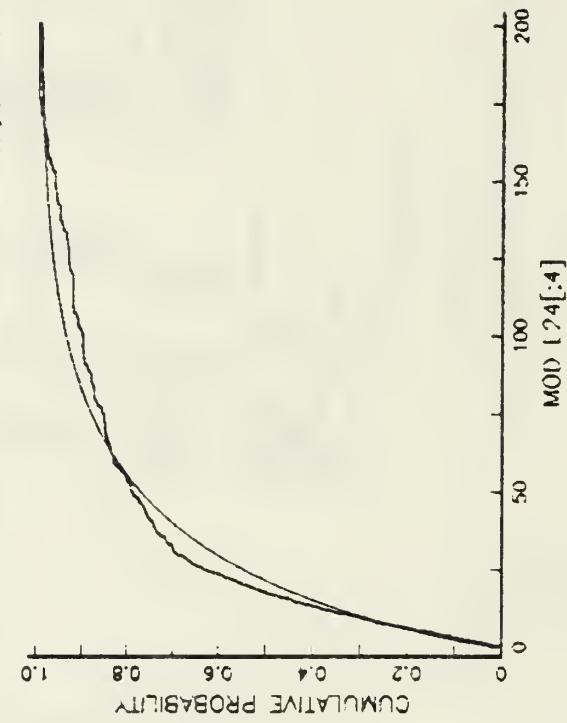
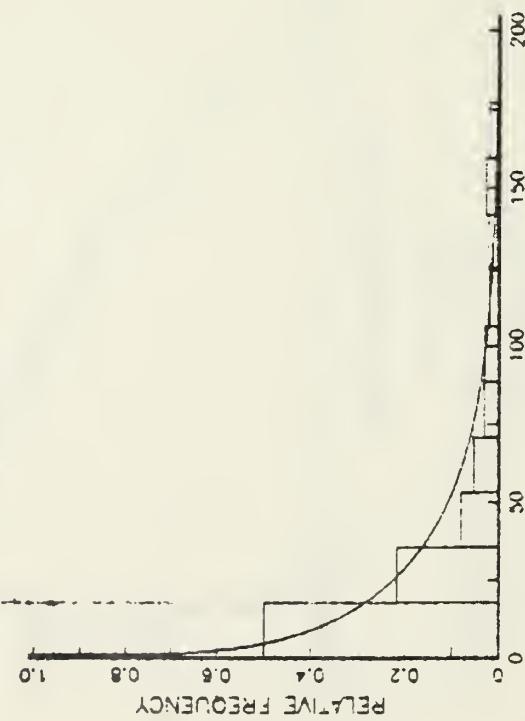


Fig. 9

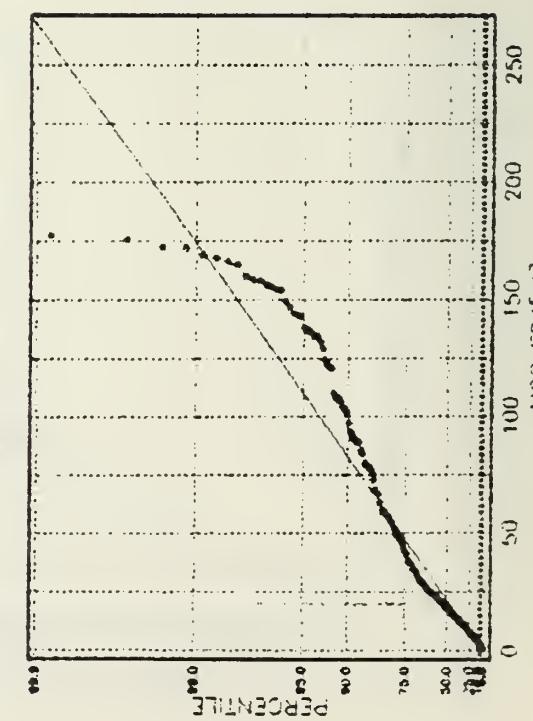
24-hour Absolute Forecast Errors for R

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=411

GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=411



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

```

N          : MOD 1.74[:4]
SELECTION : ALL
LABEL     : MOD 1.74[:4]
SAMPLE SIZE: 411
MINIMUM   : 1.00
MAXIMUM   : 177.000
CENSURING : NONE
EST. METHOD: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

```

```

FITTED          SAMPLE
46.41  : 34.076
STD DEV : 41.136
MEAN    : 37.465
VARIANCE: 1.8454
KURTOSIS: 5.634
10.13

PRIMILES SAMPLE          FITTED
9.    : 1.5          1.000
10.   : 2          2.38079
25.   : 7.9          7.81869
50.   : 17.8          21.604
75.   : 41.3          67.139
90.   : 94.9          97.401
95.   : 137.7        106.83

```

```

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF
PARAMETER ESTIMATES
ALPHA  : 0.007439/ 0.1700
BETA   : 0.17406/ 11.481

OBSERVED OR FITT
CHI-SQUARE : 3.00211
D.F. PRED.: 7.00000
STDEV    : 3.13046
NORM. STDEV: 0.0734572
STDEFF   : 3.32777
CENS. N. : 7.30524
STDEFF. : 4.075
NORM. CENS.: 3.09230
SIGMA    : 0.02340
NORM. SIGMA: 3.09230
SIGMAFF : 0.01
NORM. SIGMAFF: 0.01

```

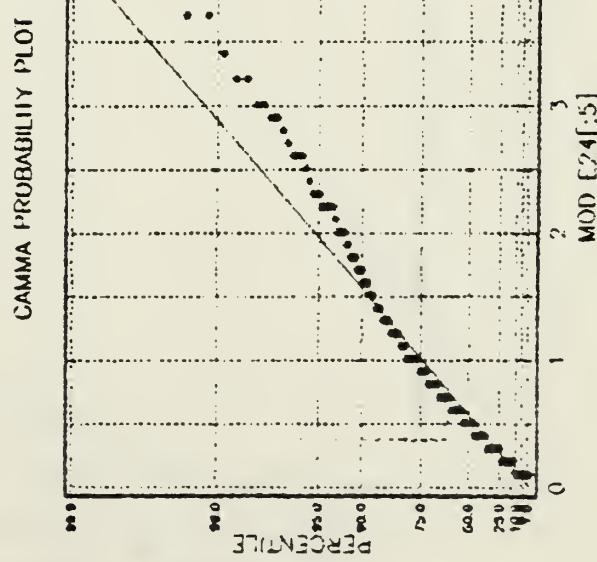
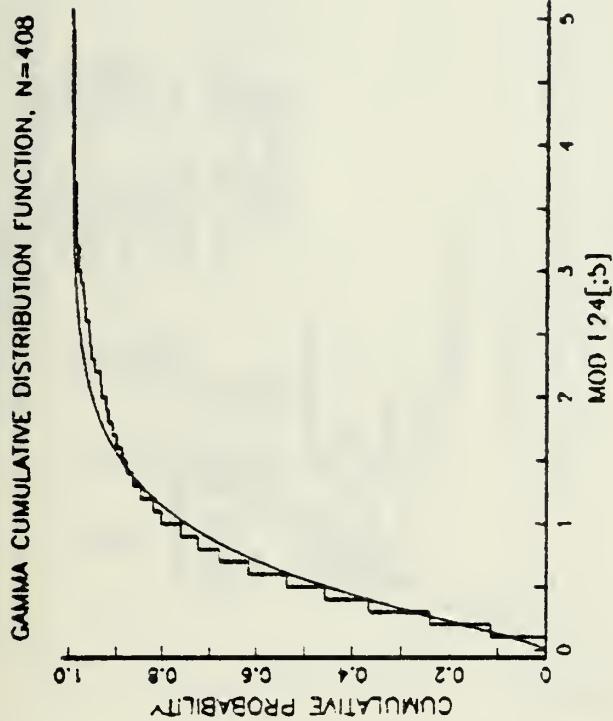
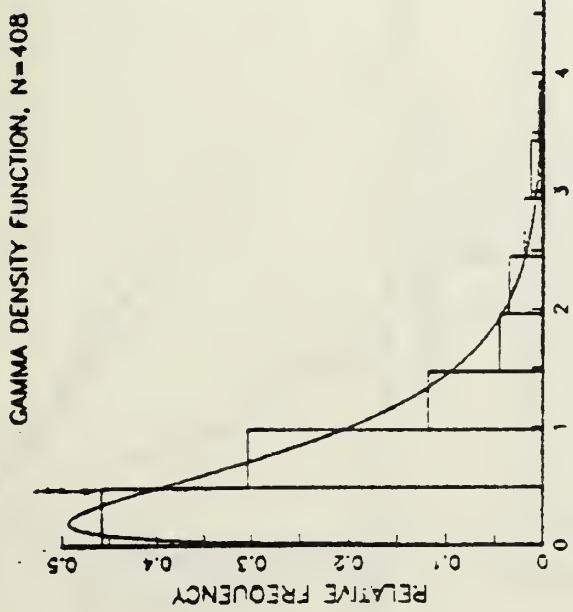
NS, AD AND CV SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT EXACT WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

0.95 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

PARAMETER ESTIMATE LOWER UPPER

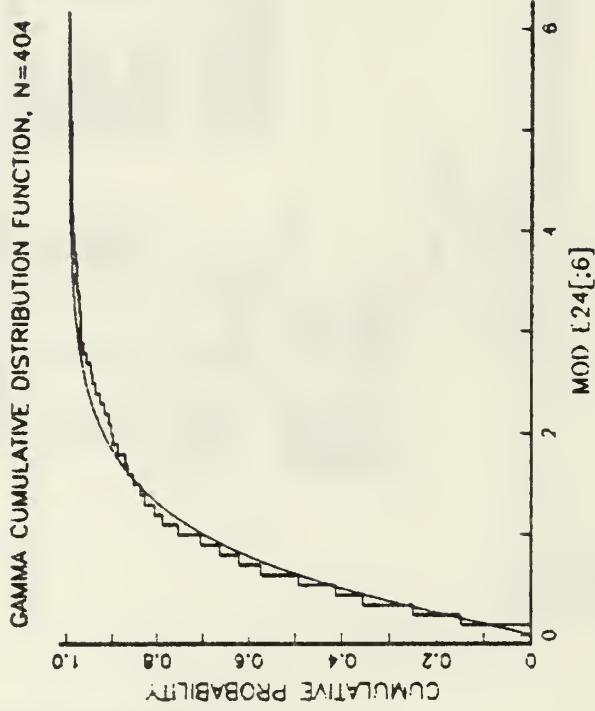
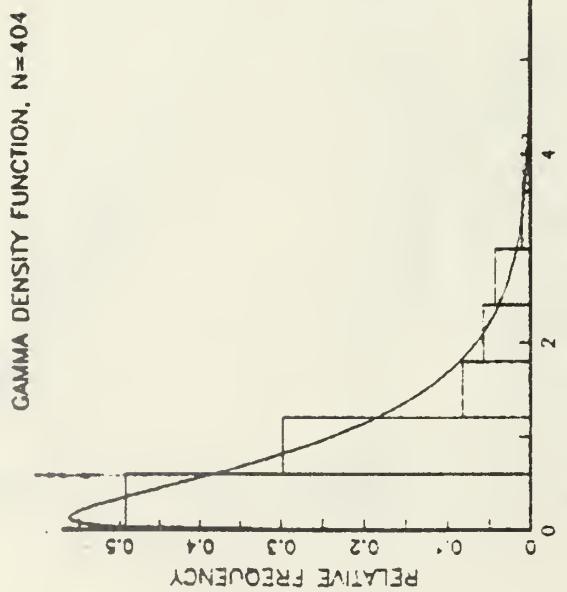
ALPHA : 0.01681 0.01534
BETA : 41.631 34.994 48.269

Fig. 10



## 24-hour Absolute Forecast Errors for $X_O$

Fig. 11



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT

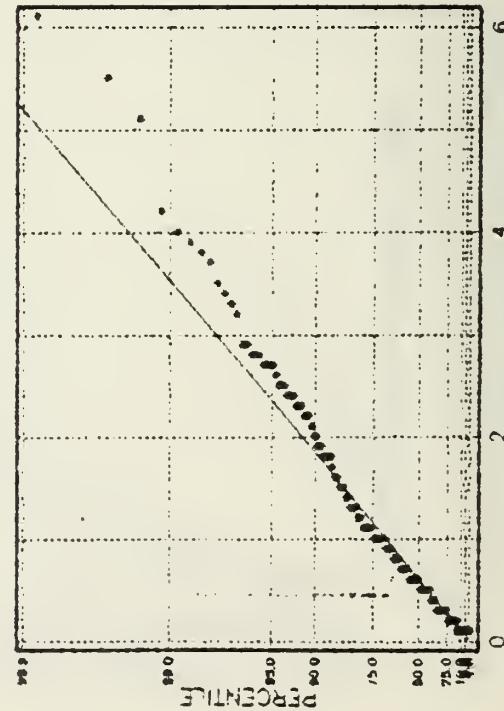


Fig. 12

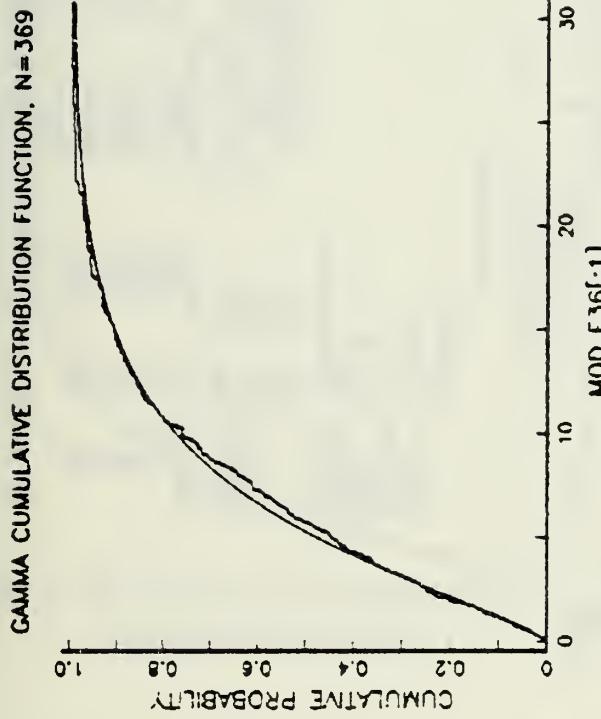
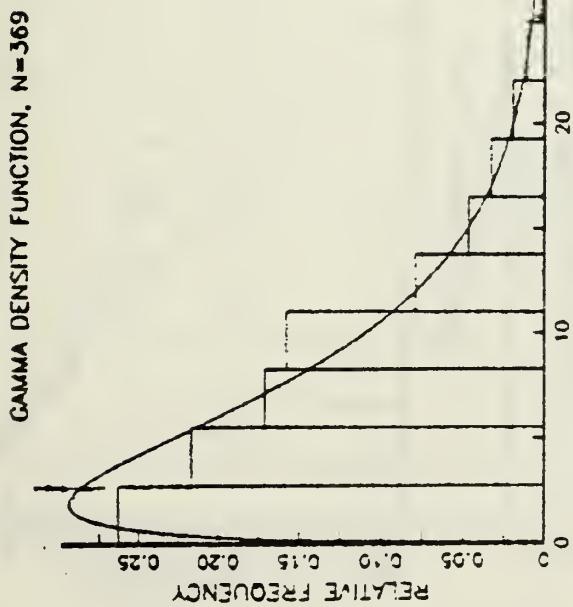
## GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=404

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION.  $N=404$

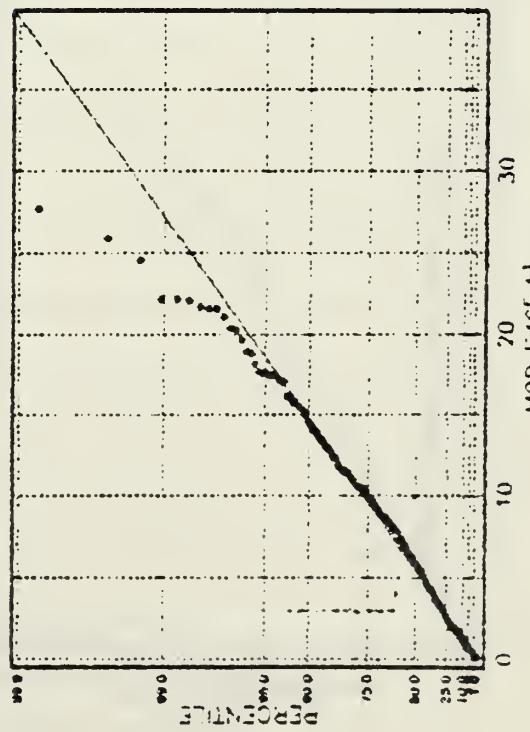
Cannabis distribution

KS, AD, AND OR SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT EXACT WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETERS

PARAMETER	ESTIMATE	SD	SE	TEST
ALPHA	-1.165	1.036	1.1312	
BETA	0.70308	0.89968	0.91009	
NU	1.00000	0.00000	0.00000	



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

X SELECTION : MOD E36[:1]  
 LABEL : 600 E36[:1]  
 SAMPLE SIZE : 369  
 MINIMUM : 1.00  
 MAXIMUM : 27.600  
 ESTIMATING : MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD  
 SAMPLE : FITTED  
 MEAN : 8.661  
 STD DEV : 2.1721  
 SKEWNESS : 1.0782  
 KURTOSIS : 3.9433  
 PARAMETERS :  
 ALPHA : 0.000311  
 BETA : 0.1617

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF  
 PARAMETER ESTIMATES  
 ALPHA 0.000311 0.000044  
 BETA 0.00044 0.1617

GOODNESS OF FIT  
 CHI-SQUARE : 6.4641  
 DEG. FREED. : 7  
 SIGNIF. : 0.1625  
 HADDELLIAN : 0.050016  
 SKEWNESS : 0.31443  
 KURTOSIS : 0.1684  
 SIGNIF. : > .15  
 AND P DWT : 0.89944  
 SIGNIF. : > .15

NS. AL. AND P SIGNIF. : LEVELS NOT EXACT WITH ESTIMATED PARAMETERS  
 0.05 COVARIANCE INTERVALS  
 PARAMETER ESTIMATES LOWER UPPER  
 ALPHA 1.3772 1.1972 1.5672  
 BETA 4.9944 4.7119 5.7854

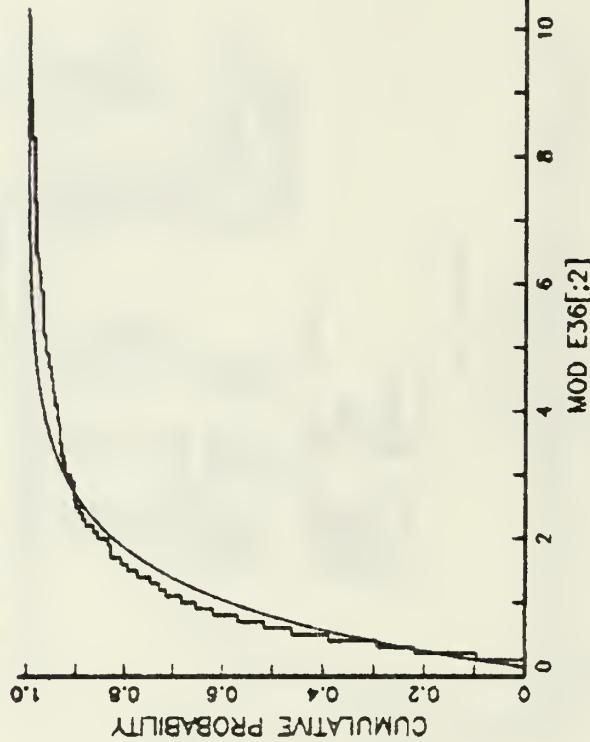
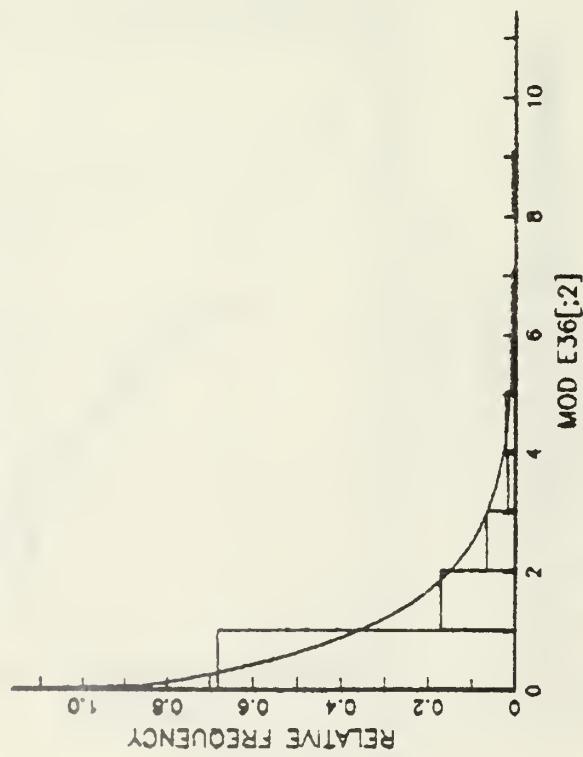
MOD E36[:1]

Fig. 13

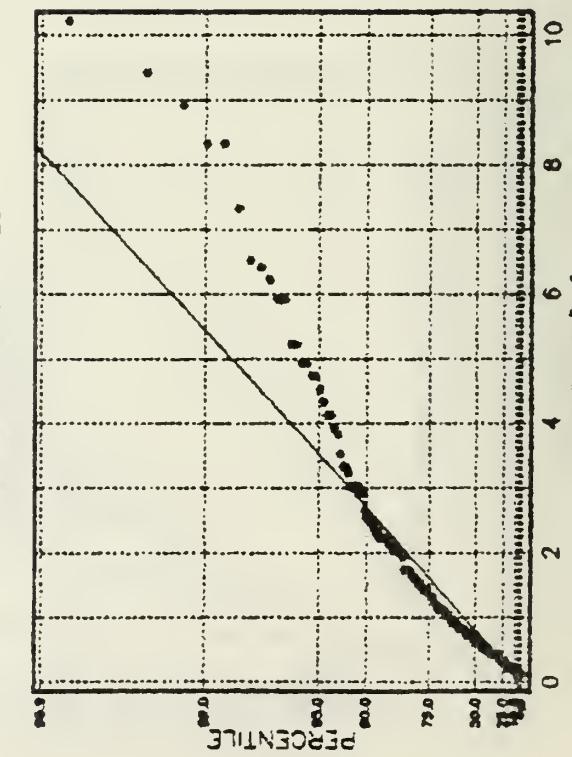
36-hour Absolute Forecast Errors for A

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=344

GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=344



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



13. AD. AND CV SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT COINC WITH ESTIMATED PARAM (123)

14. AD. AND CV SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT COINC WITH ESTIMATED PARAM (123)

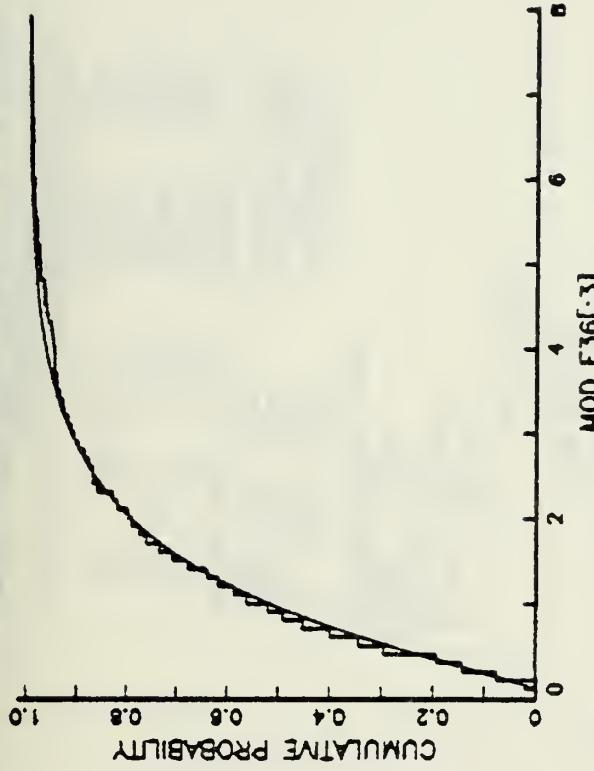
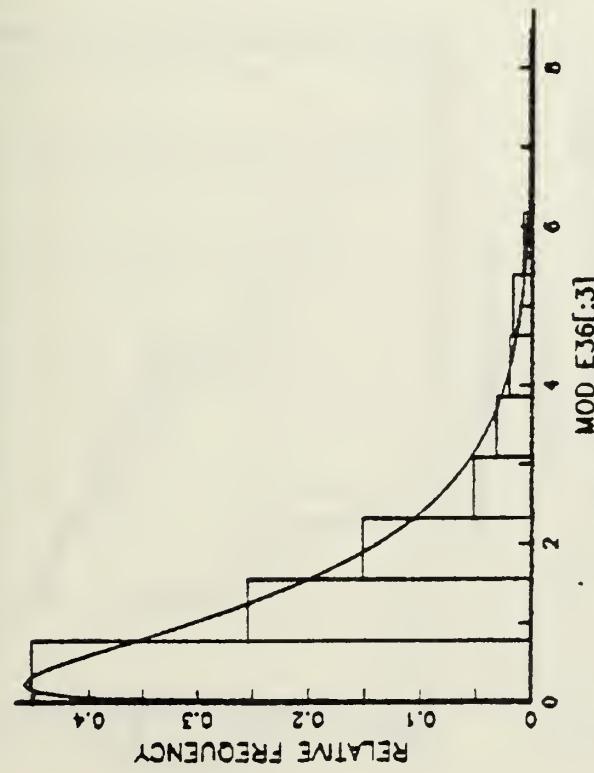
PARAMETER ESTIMATE LOWER UPPER

ALPHA 0.83704 1.4918  
BETA 1.1995 0.91934 1.4631

Fig. 14

### GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=342

### GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=342



PERCENTILE

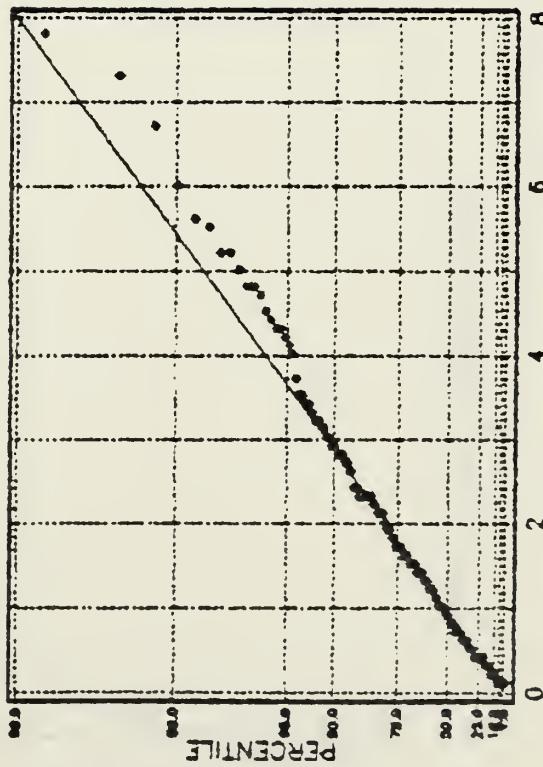
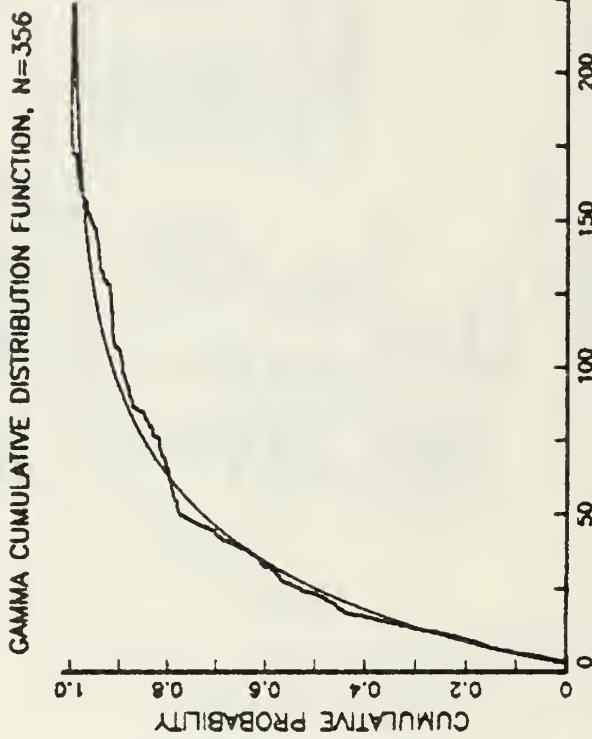
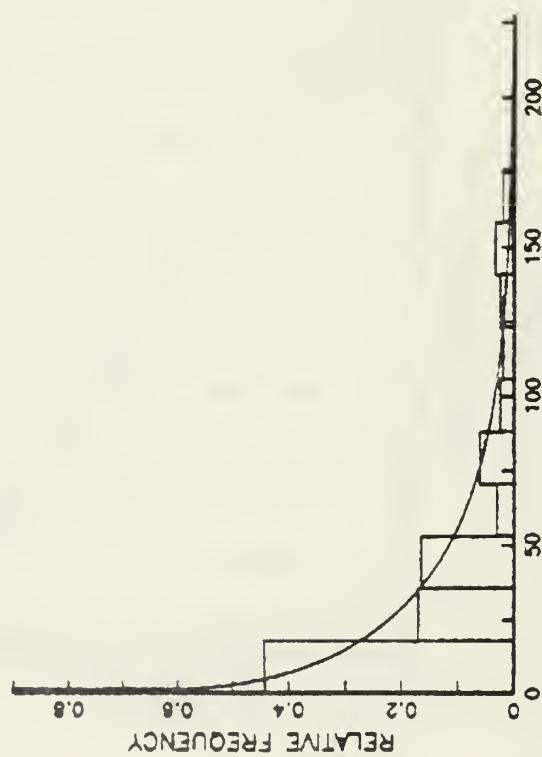


Fig. 15

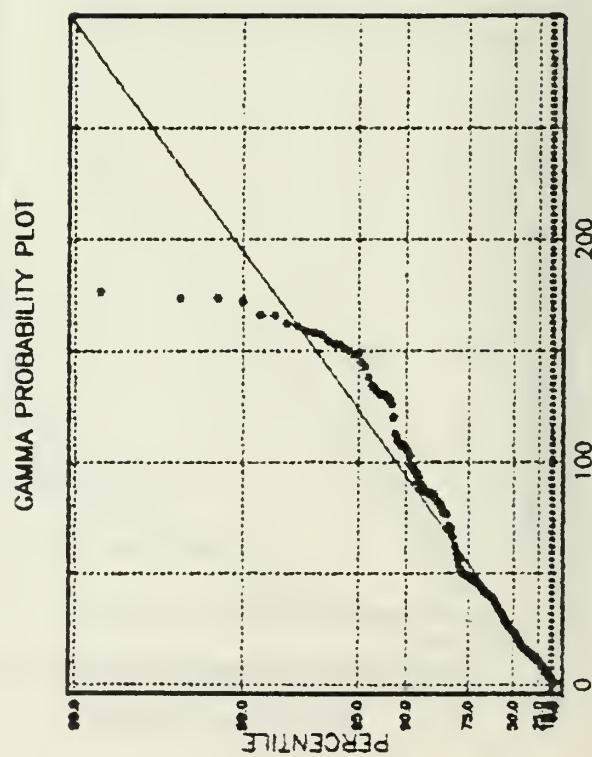
GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION. N=356



GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION. N=356

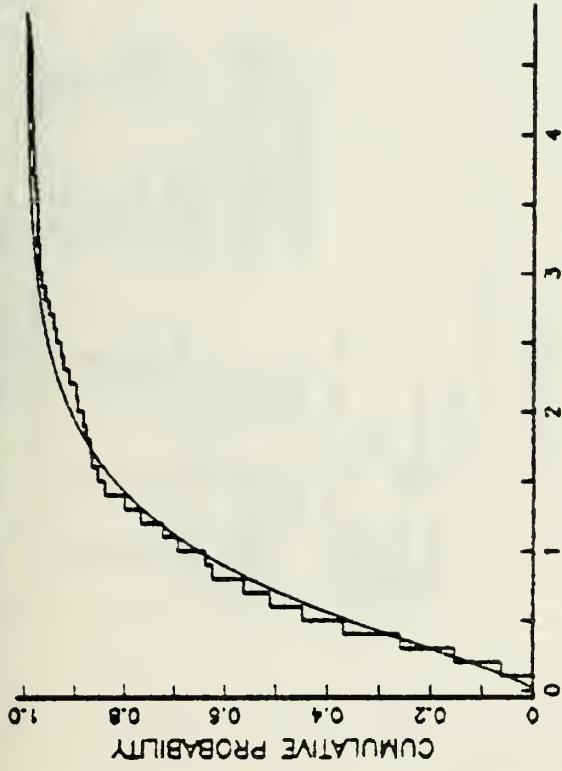
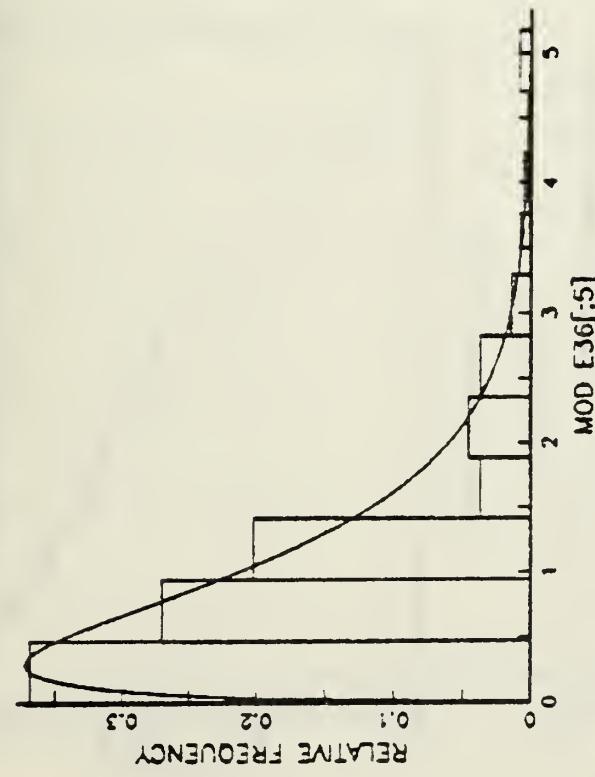


GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT

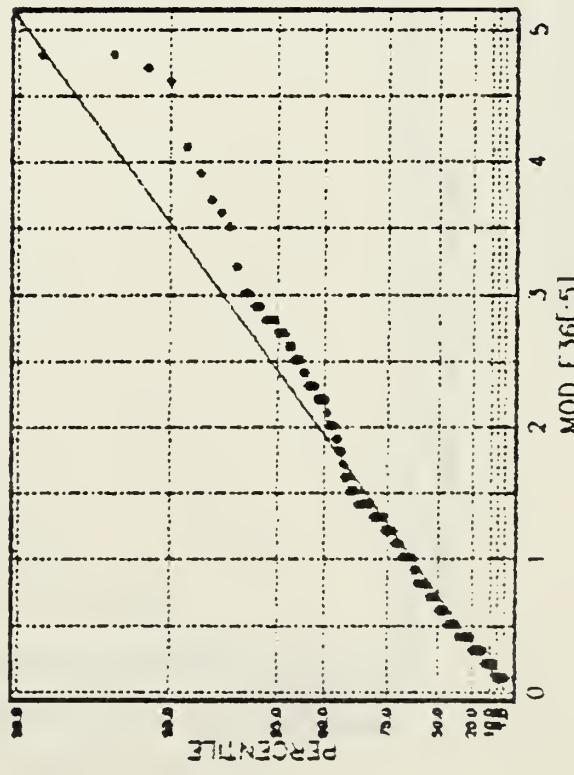


### GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=352

### GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=352



### GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



### GAMMA DISTRIBUTION

```
X: MOD E36[:5]
FUNCTION: ALM
LAMBDA: MOD E36[:5]
SAMPLE SIZE: 352
MINIMUM: .108
MAXIMUM: 4.820
CHISQTEST: 1.904
EST. METHOD: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD
```

```
COVARIANCE MATRIX OF
PARAMETER ESTIMATES
ALPHA  .0000132
BETA  .0000447
```

```
COV(0.55, 0.711)
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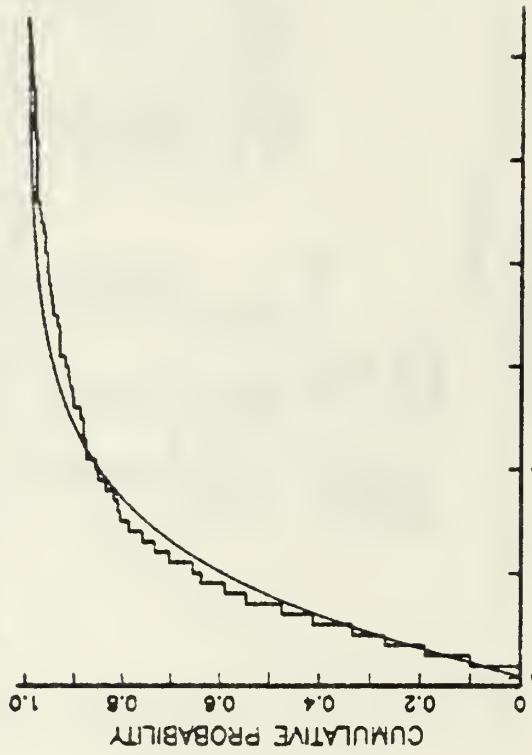
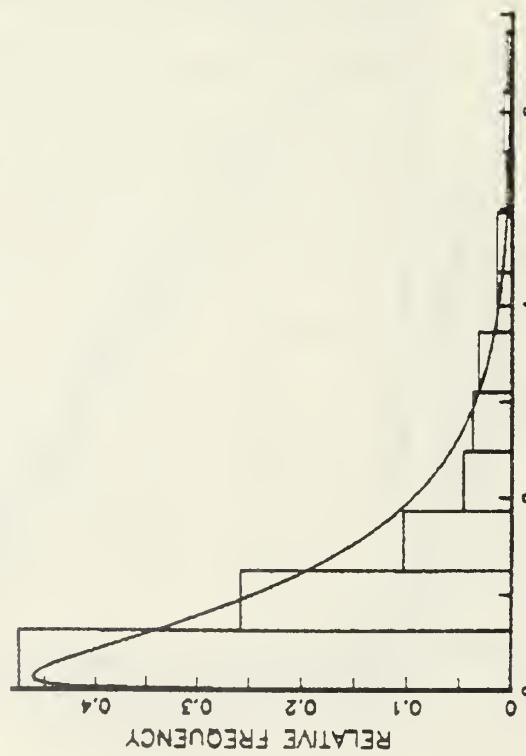
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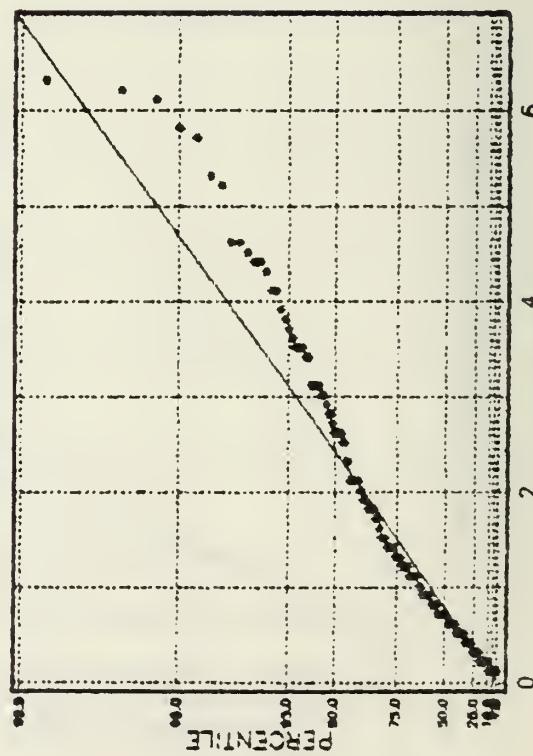
```
0.0000000 0.0000000
```

GAMMA DENSITY FUNCTION, N=349

GAMMA CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION, N=349



GAMMA PROBABILITY PLOT



X SELECTION : MOD E36[:6]  
 LABEL : MOD E36[:6]  
 SAMPLE SIZE: 349  
 UNKNOWN : .100  
 MAXIMUM : 6.300  
 OBTAINING : NONE  
 EST. METHOD: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF PARAMETER ESTIMATES

ALPHA	BETA
0.0000731 -0.0000232	0.0000117

CHI-SQUARE : 17.363  
 D.F. (WELD) : 6  
 SIGNIF. : 0.0000343  
 PULL-SIGNIF. : 0.0000343  
 SIGNIF. : 0.0000343  
 GRANBY M : 0.67773  
 SIGNIF. : <.001  
 AMER-DAW : 3.743  
 SIGNIF. : <.001

NS, AD, AND CV SIGNIF. LEVELS NOT EXACT WITH ESTIMATED PARAM. TUES

0.95 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

PARAMETER ESTIMATE	LOWER	UPPER	
ALPHA	1.309	0.4057	1.2002
BETA	0.85222	0.77932	1.1092

SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=19

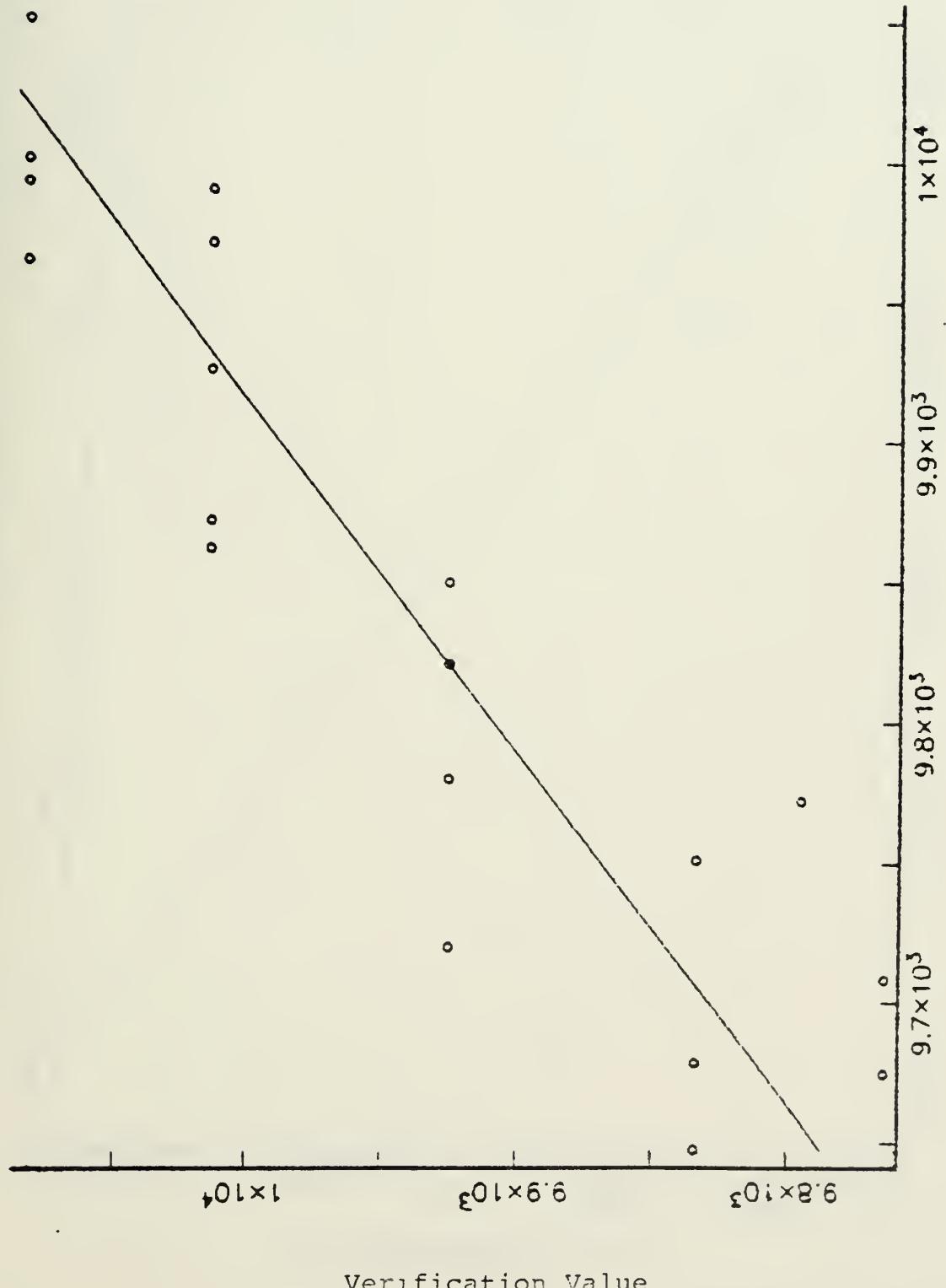


FIGURE 19

FORECASTED VALUES OF AMPLITUDE - STORM 2

SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=27



FIGURE 20  
FORECASTED VALUES OF AMPLITUDE - STORM 10

SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=41

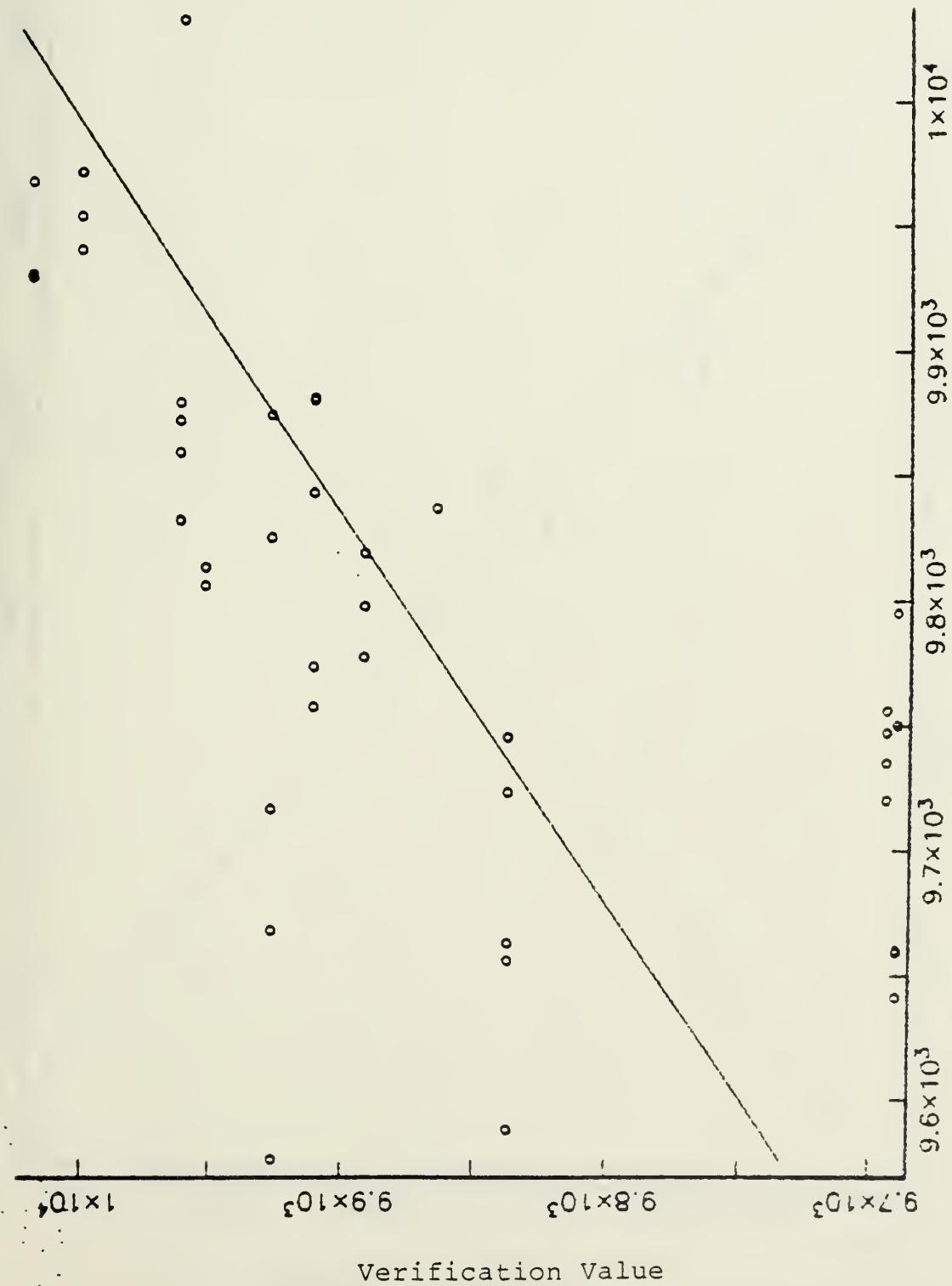


FIGURE 21

FORECASTED VALUES OF AMPLITUDE - STORM 11

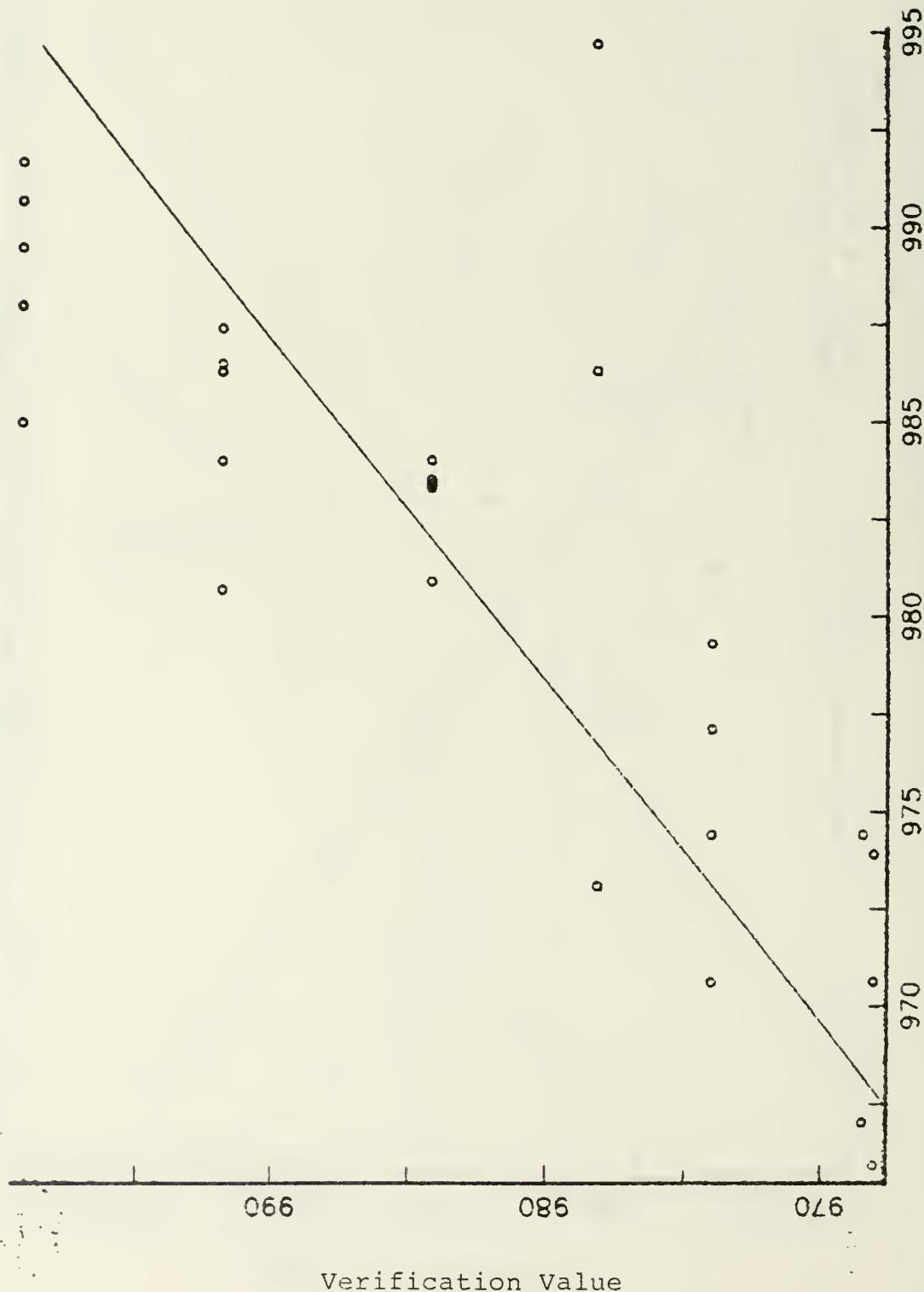


FIGURE 22  
FORECASTED VALUES OF AMPLITUDE - STORM 20

SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=34

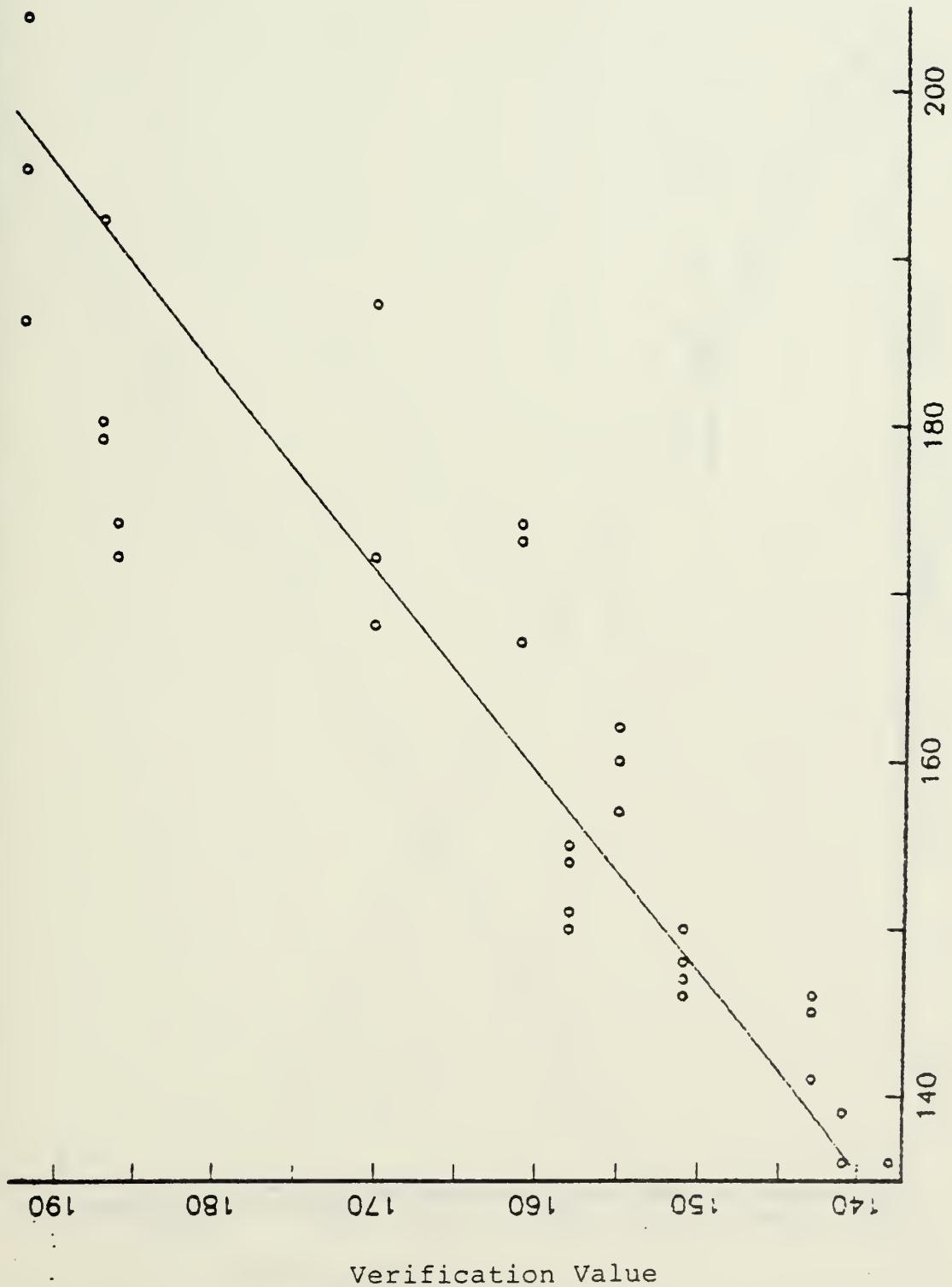


FIGURE 23  
FORECASTED VALUE OF  $X_O$  - STORM 4

## SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=41

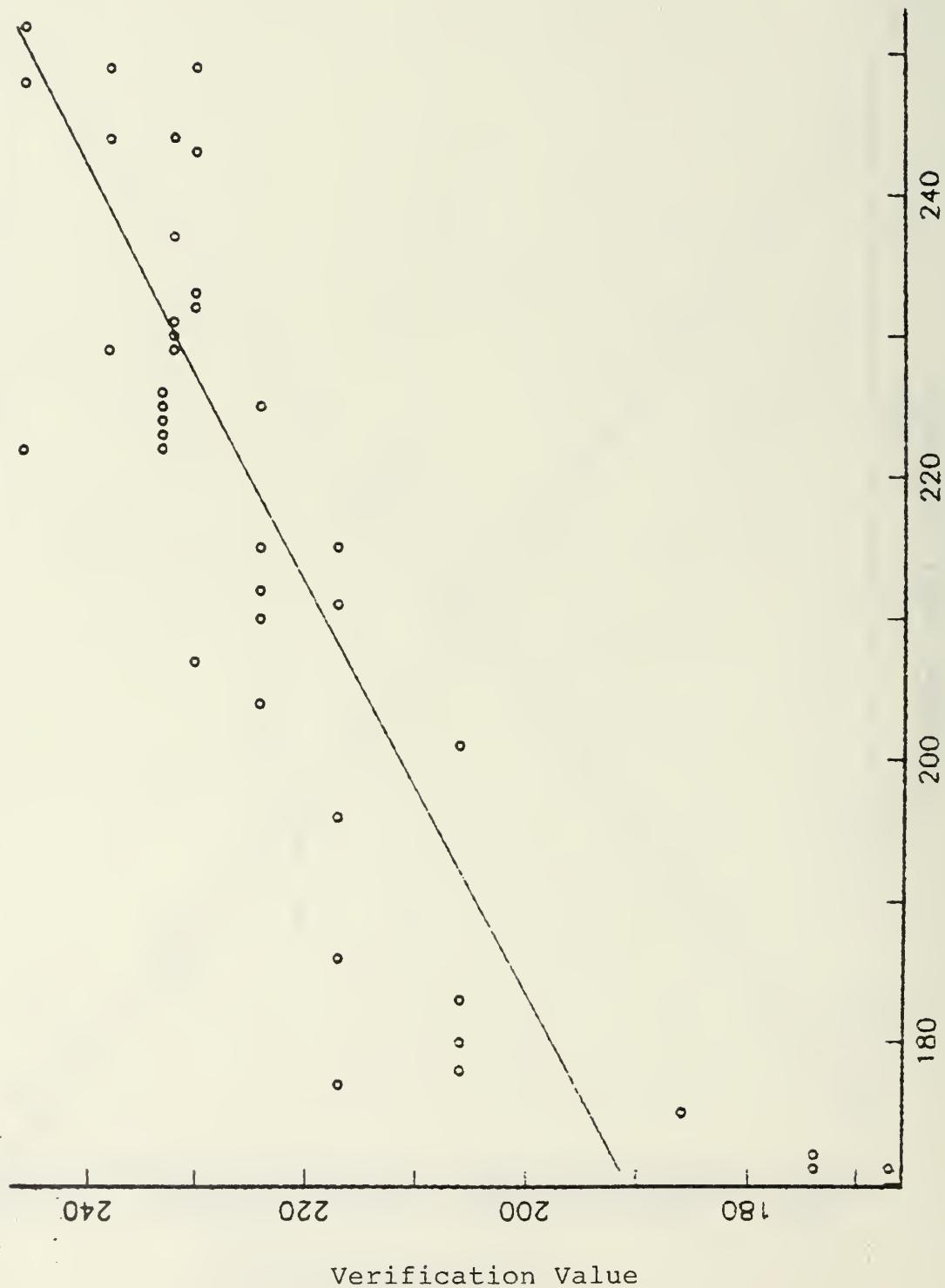


FIGURE 24  
FORECASTED VALUE OF  $X_O$  - STORM 11

SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=25

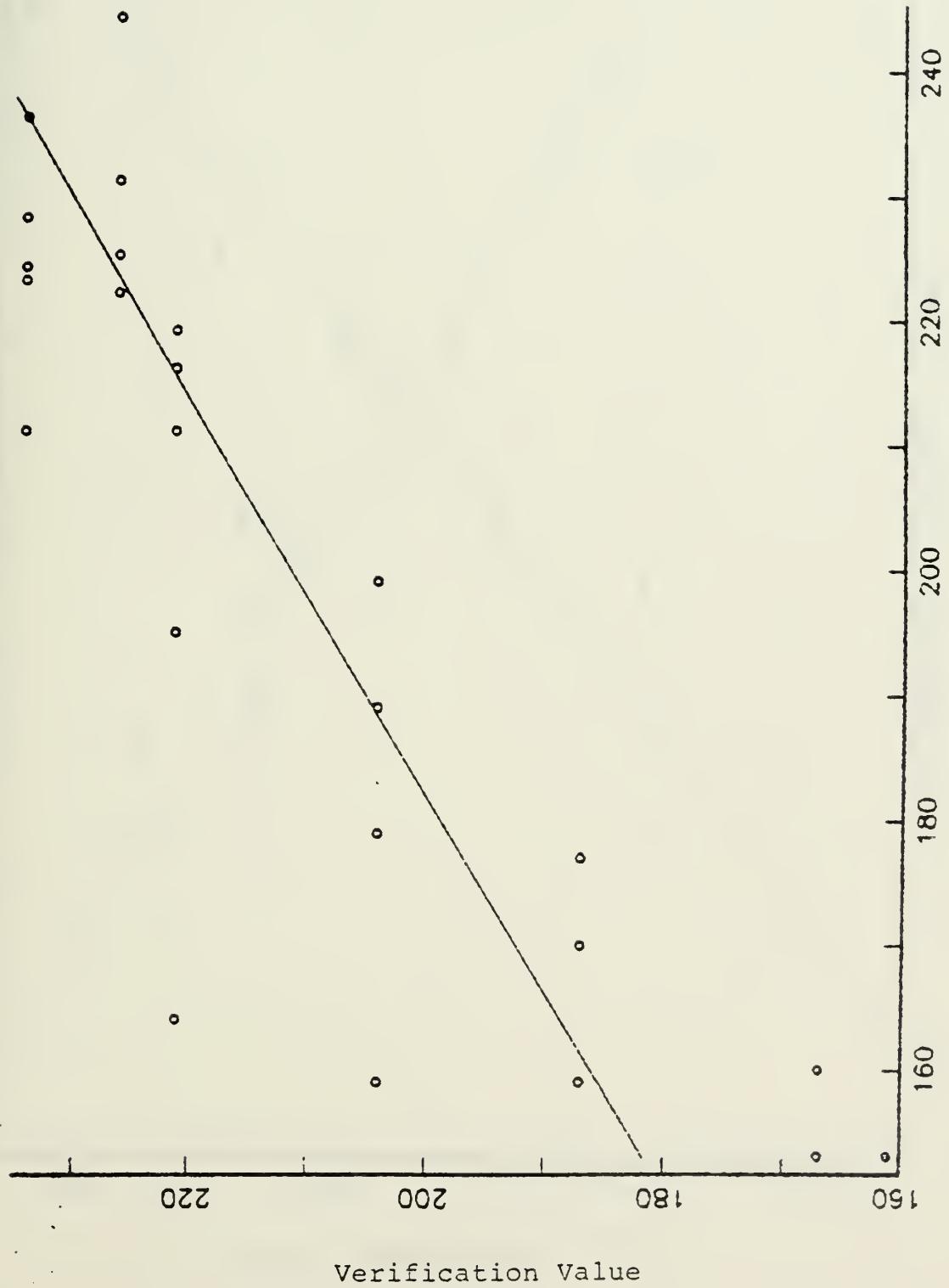


FIGURE 25

FORECASTED VALUE OF  $x_0$  - STORM 12

## SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=63

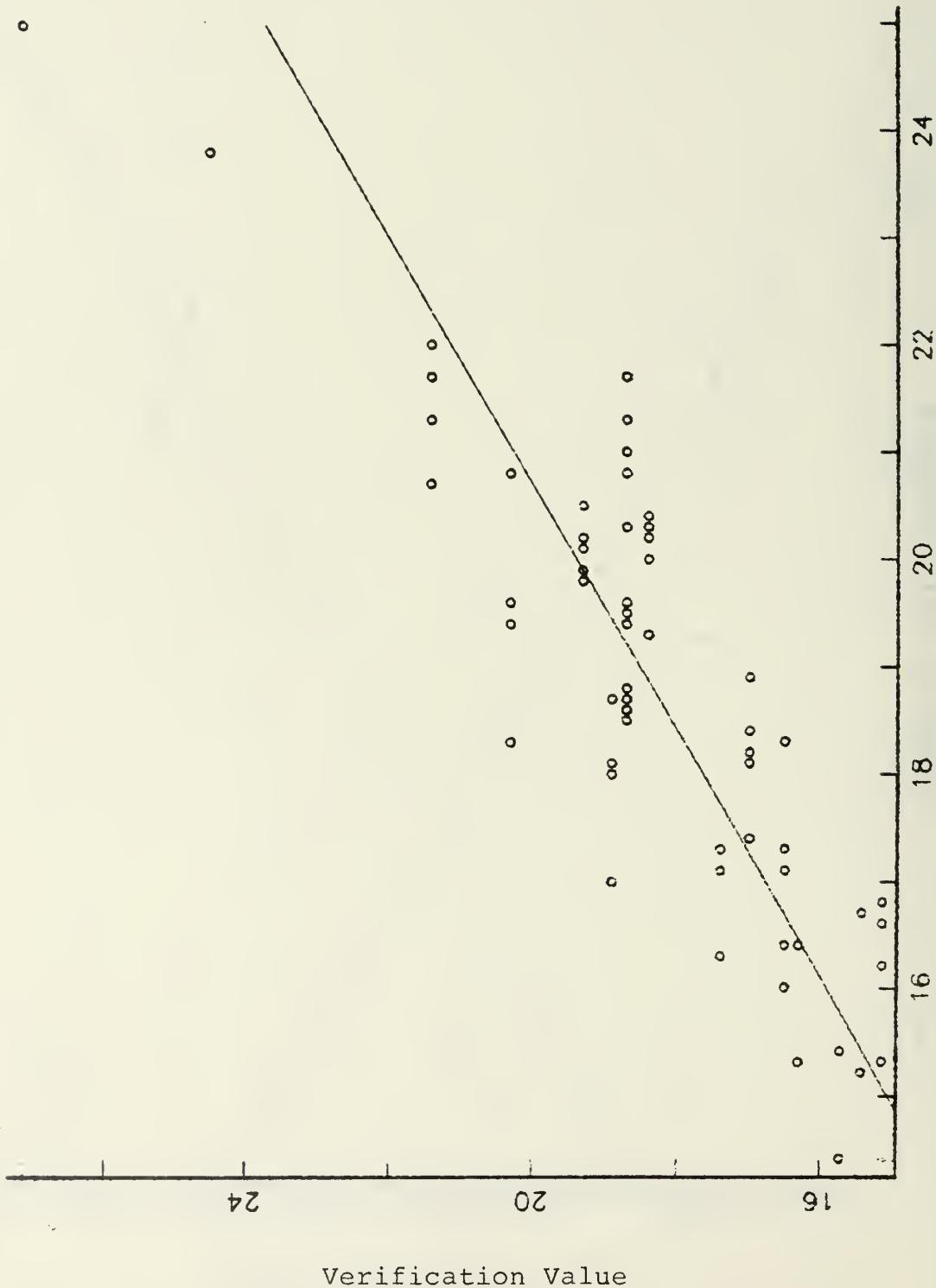
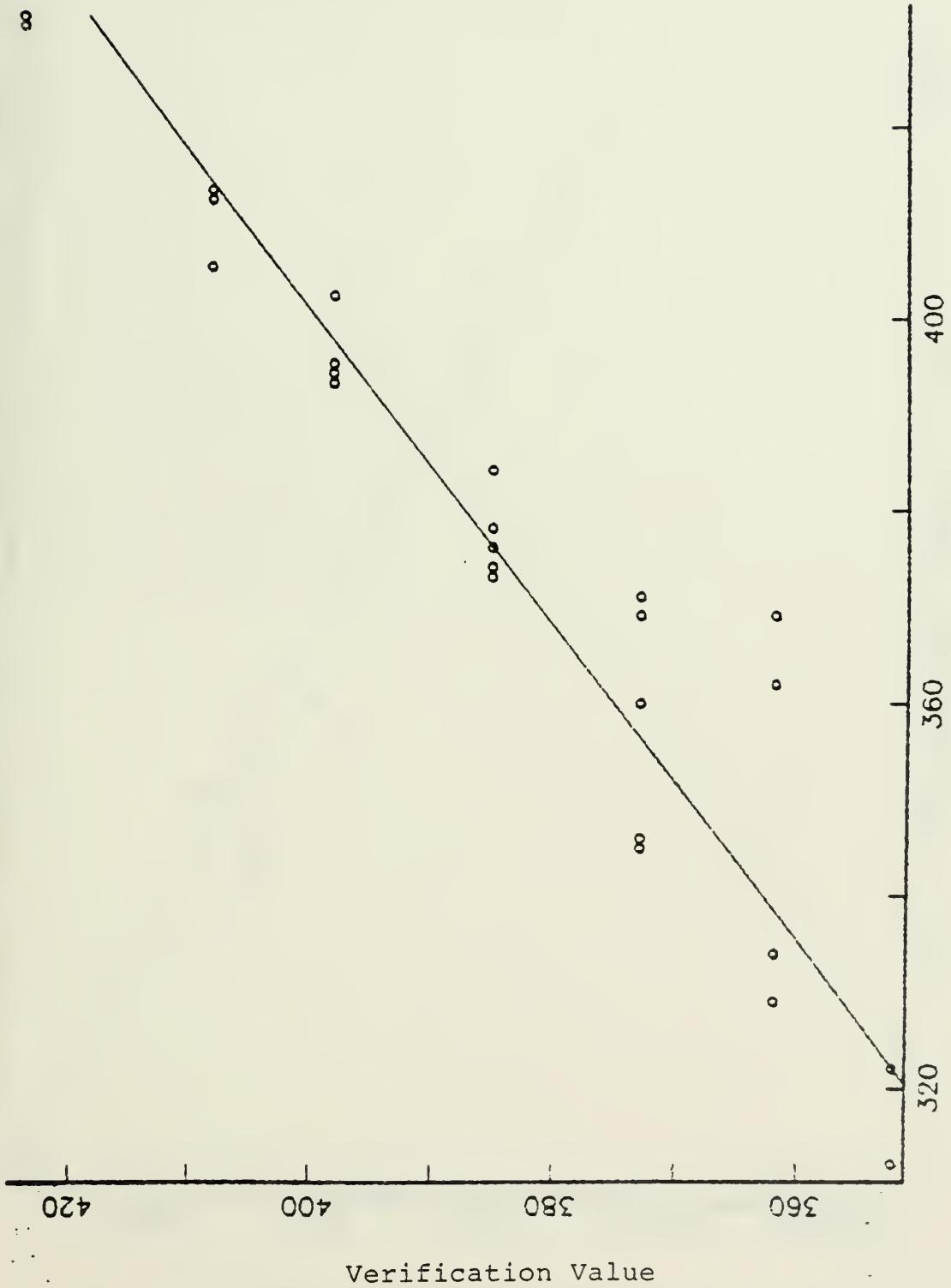


FIGURE 26  
FORECASTED VALUE OF  $X_O$  - STORM 16

SCATTER PLOT. SSZ=27



SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=41

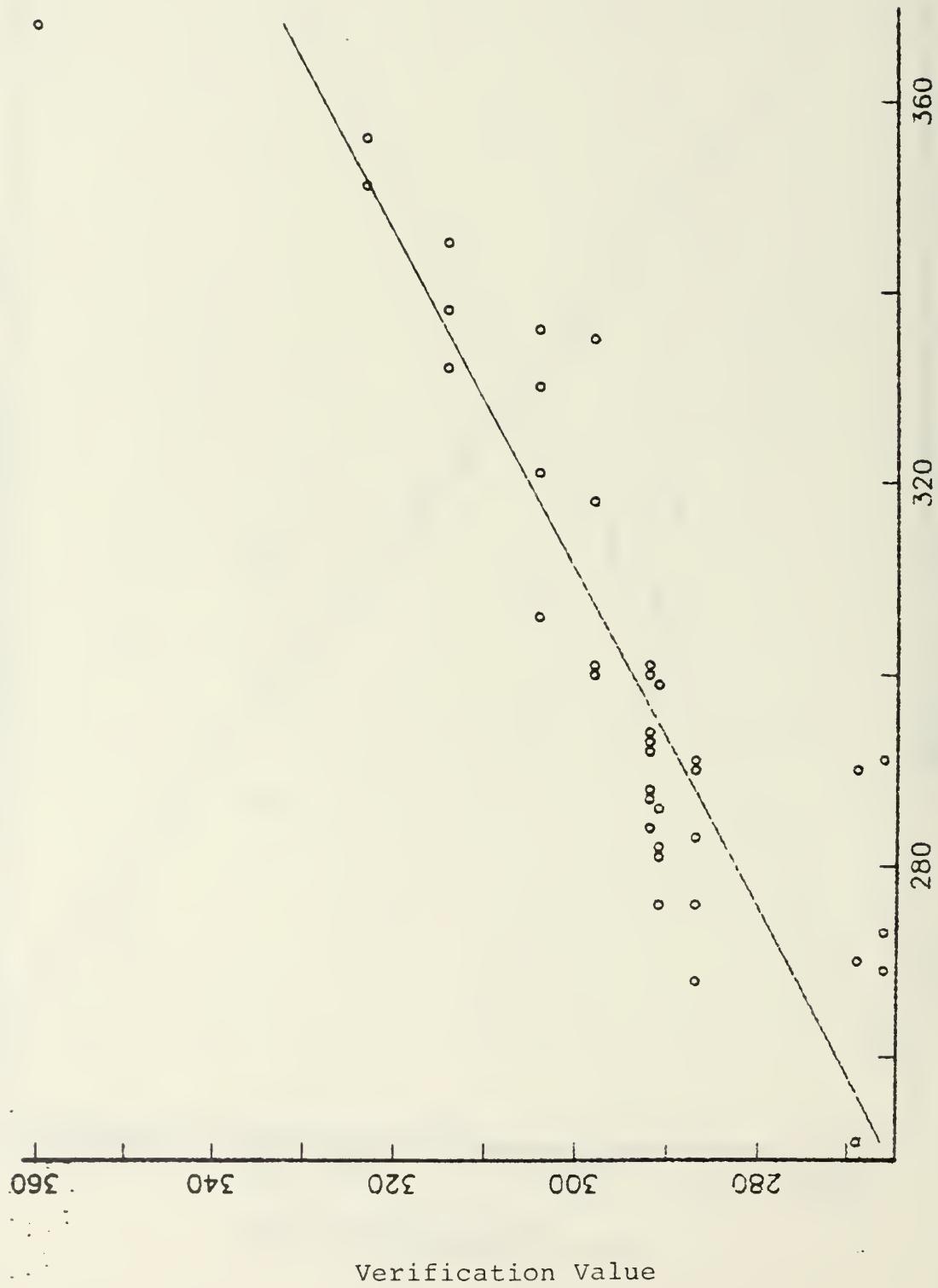
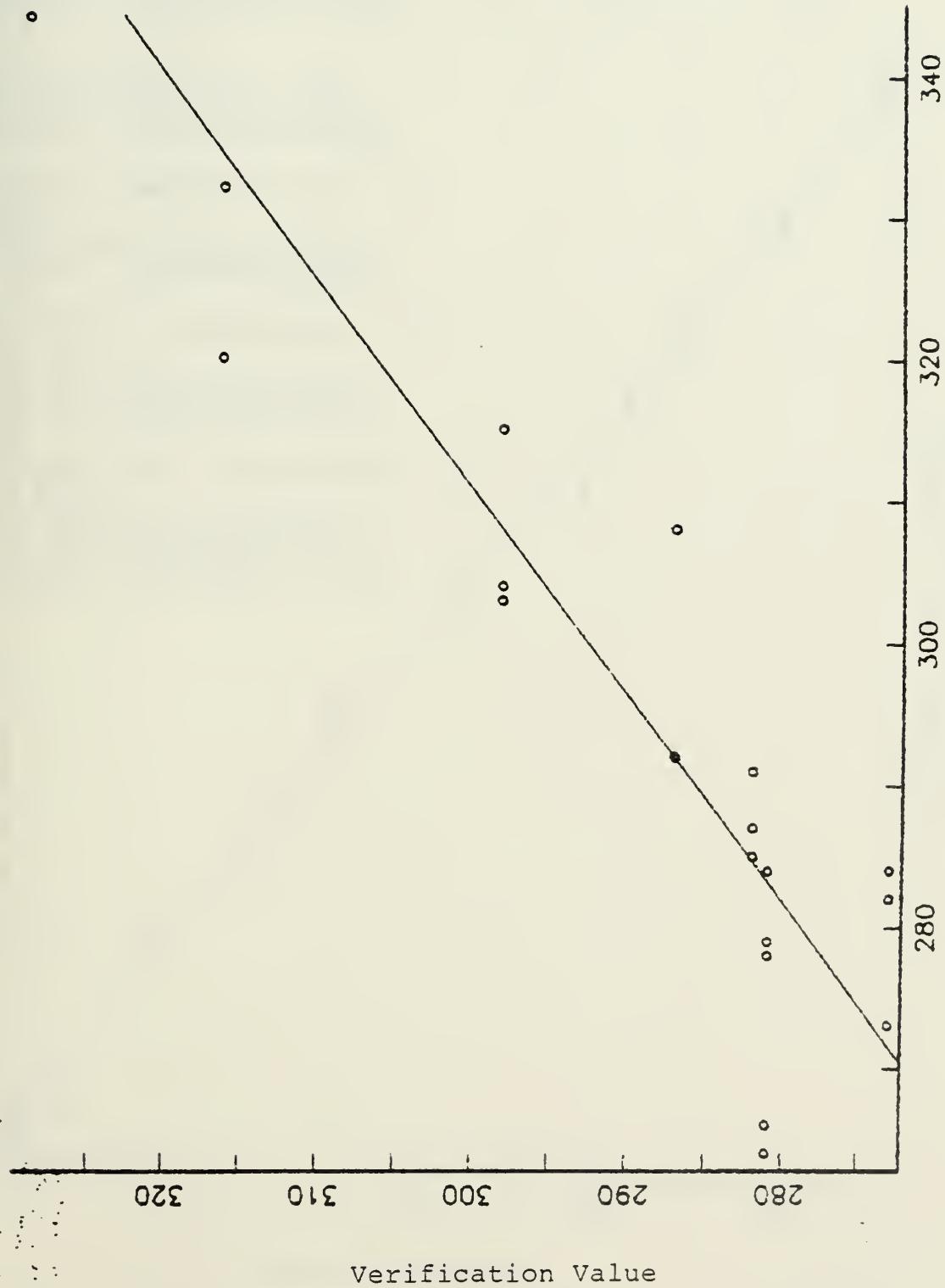


FIGURE 28

FORECASTED VALUES OF Y<sub>o</sub> - STORM 11

SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=25



Verification Value

FIGURE 29

FORECASTED VALUES OF  $Y_O$  - STORM 12

SCATTER PLOT, SSZ=63

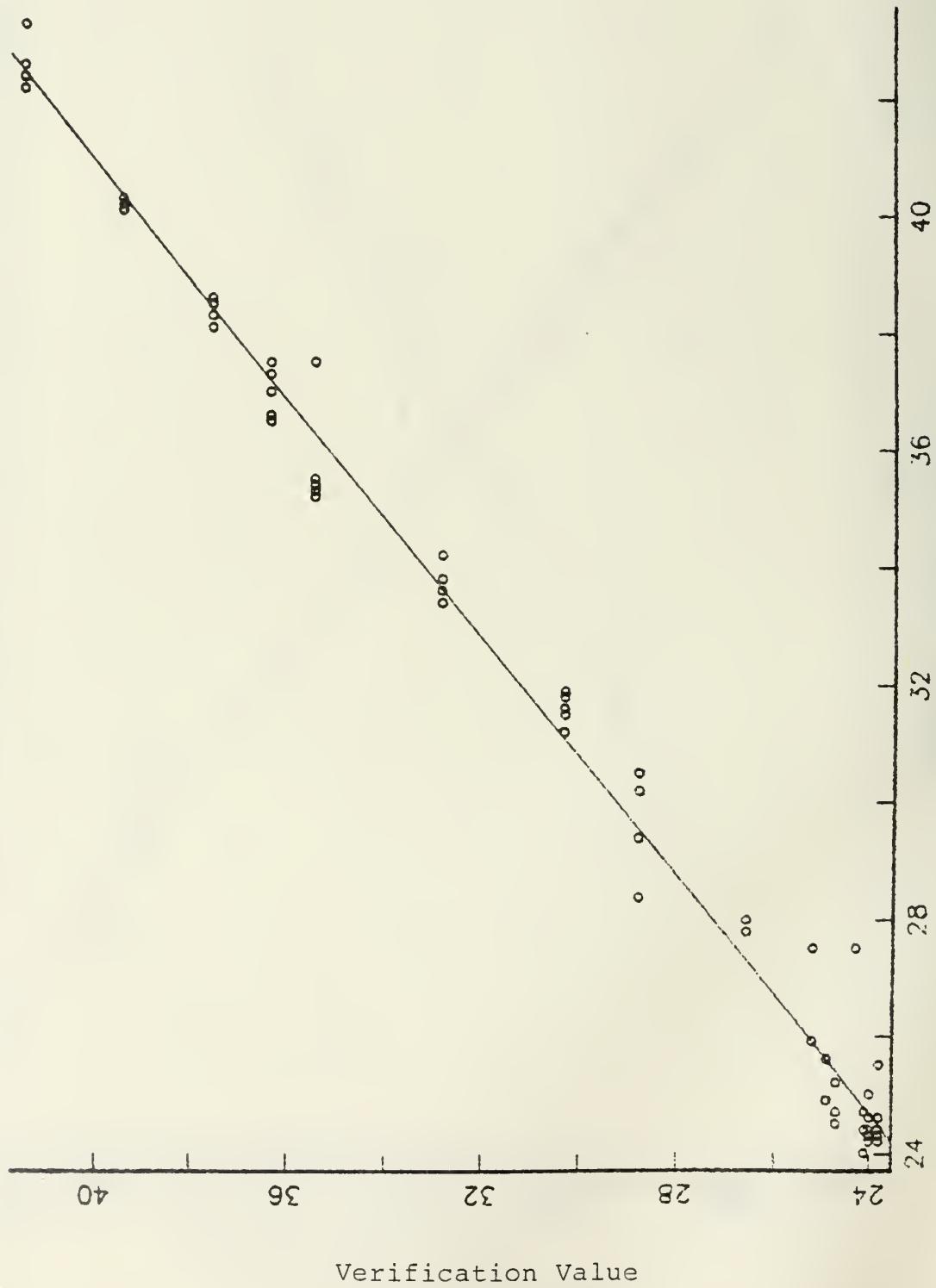


FIGURE 30

FORECASTED VALUES OF  $Y_O$  - STORM 16

Verification Value

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